



## United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Ref.: SCBD/OES/PPP/88245

9 August 2019

Dear members of the CBD Alliance,

Thank you for your letter received on 1 August 2019 raising your concerns with respect to the position of Director, Partnership and Business Engagement, Nature Action Agenda, advertised recently by the World Economic Forum. The Secretariat takes your concerns very seriously and would like to clarify that the position as advertised does not exist at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. We further understand that no such recruitment will proceed. The Secretariat regrets the confusion that this advertisement has created.

As always, the Secretariat remains committed to engaging all relevant stakeholders and partners in an open and transparent manner in line with the United Nations (UN) rules and regulations and the policies established by the UN and the Conference of the Parties. Furthermore, the Secretariat has always and continues to follow the very clear rules set by the UN for recruitments and would not undermine such rules under any circumstances.

We would also like to assure you that the partnerships that the Secretariat is building with all stakeholders, including the World Economic Forum, follow all UN rules and regulations and are not aimed to create any financial dependencies of public institutions on private sector interests.

The Secretariat has an exemplary track record of engagement and involvement of all stakeholders. This is illustrated, inter alia, by diverse case studies, profiling actions and solutions across the globe to address the most challenging issues facing the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Engaging the business community has been a key priority of the CBD Parties, as has been the engagement with other groups and stakeholders, such as youth, women, civil society, local authorities, indigenous peoples and local communities and the public at large. Not only is the Secretariat working with all groups to promote broader and catalytic engagement, at all possible levels, but we are also leveraging our efforts, together with partners to ensure enhanced transparency and accountability on all actions committed, including through the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People.

The Secretariat remains committed to addressing biodiversity concerns across the international community in a holistic, complementary and inclusive manner, with all stakeholders. The approaches we have taken have followed deep analysis and consultations to ensure that, as a collective, all stakeholders and major group actors can make the transformative change we need to bend the curve of biodiversity loss by 2030, which, as you know, is an essential condition to safeguard biodiversity and achieve the Convention's vision of Living In Harmony with Nature by 2050. We acknowledge that the responsibility and solutions will come from all actors in society and we will continue to provide a platform that is neutral, engaging and catalytic so that biodiversity can be conserved, sustainably used and that access and benefit sharing mechanisms are implemented for present and future generations.

We remain available to engage with you on any further concerns you may have.

Your sincerely,

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD  
Executive Secretary

CBD Alliance

