

Statement read by Ms Hiroko MIZUNO, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, at the Closing Plenary of Open-Ended Working Group 2 meeting in Rome, Italy, on 29 February 2020, on behalf of ICLEI, the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments for Biodiversity (coordinated by Regions4 Sustainable Development and the Government of Quebec), the European Committee of Regions, and the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Dear Co-Chairs, Distinguished delegates,

I am from Aichi Prefecture and taking the floor on behalf of the Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments, coordinated by Regions4 and the Government of Québec, ICLEI, the Group of Leading Subnational Governments towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the European Committee of Regions.

We deeply thank colleagues for the inclusive and constructive discussions this week.

Participation by all levels of government is imperative if we are to achieve transformative change. We are committed to supporting Parties by contributing to the implementation of the New Framework.

In turn, we call on Parties to enable us to support the development, implementation and monitoring of action, and to demonstrate this commitment through adopting an ambitious decision, which enables all levels of subnational government to take transformative action.

In this regard, we appreciate the positive comments provided by Parties throughout this week, including those from the EU, the UK, Japan, Mexico, Singapore, Argentina and others, recognizing the importance of, and calling for enabling conditions for, and engagement of all levels of government in the implementation of the new framework.

As an established coalition representing our constituency, we have formulated a collective position on the contribution of all levels of subnational government to the new Framework and in mainstreaming biodiversity.

We will develop this further at the Thematic Workshop on Subnational Governments in Scotland in early April, and bring concrete recommendations to SBI-3 in May.

We remain available to engage with Parties and look forward to continuing the good work together. THANK YOU!