



**Remarks by Deputy Permanent Representative
Ambassador Andrés Rugeles
Permanent Mission of Colombia to the UN**

2021 Observance of World Bee Day: Build back better for Bees

Thursday, May 20th 2021

1:30 – 2:30 pm

5 MINUTES

Excellencies, Distinguished Speakers, dear colleagues,

It is a pleasure to join you in this virtual event “**Bee Engaged**”: **Build Back Better for Bees**.

We commend the initiative of the distinguished Government of **Slovenia** and the **FAO**.

During the last 4 years, the **World Bee Day** has provided a meaningful platform to promote and scale-up actions to safeguard pollinators in order to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity.

Bees and other pollinators allow biological diversity to flourish, which is key to tackle the main global challenges that humankind currently face.

Science speaks loud and clear: in order to deliver on the Paris Agreement and achieve the SDGs, we need to conserve biodiversity and catalyze transformative change to prevent a sixth event of mass extinction.

We must do this with a sense of **urgency**. We all have a huge opportunity to do so this year in October with the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework post to 2020 in COP15, to be held in China.

As host of the Pre-COP of biodiversity in August, **Colombia** is prepared to increase the ambition in the negotiation process and translate commitments into actions under the Global Biodiversity Framework.



The negotiation of the goals and targets of the framework will allow us to design a comprehensive actionable agenda with enhanced means of implementation and a robust monitoring framework to effectively protect nature.

Dear colleagues,

Let's not fall short on our task to protect bees and pollinators, since the stability of ecosystems and of humans' livelihoods depends on it.

Let me be clear: there is no way to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050 without them.

Having said that, allow me to invite you to be part of ambitious solutions towards the protection of nature.

We encourage you to endorse the **Leader's Pledge for Nature** to halt biodiversity loss by 2030.

The Pledge advocates for an integrated and cross-sectoral approach to addressing the current planetary emergency, recognizing the interdependence between biodiversity loss, climate change and health; and the vital importance of such action to build back better.

Additionally, we would want you to consider joining the **High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People**.

In line with scientific advice, the Coalition underlines that the 30by30 protection target should promote indigenous-led conservation, prioritize intact ecosystems, and focus on the most important areas for biodiversity and climate.

We are building the momentum to ensure the adoption of an effective, ambitious and feasible global biodiversity framework post to 2020 in COP-15. We all play a role to make it happen.

You can count with **Colombia** to keep building bridges towards this objective.

Thank you.