



Ministerial Declaration of the Carpathian Convention on Carpathian Commitments for the new post 2020 global biodiversity framework implementation

We, the Ministers and High-Level Representatives of the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Republic of Serbia, the Slovak Republic and Ukraine, being responsible for implementation of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (hereinafter referred to as the “Carpathian Convention”) and having met in Rzeszów, Poland on 22 November 2022, on the occasion of the Carpathian Ministerial Conference;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Carpathians are a mountain range of global importance and a center of nature and biodiversity in Europe, representing some of Europe’s most significant remaining areas of natural forests providing essential habitat and refuge for the biggest populations of large carnivores and many endangered species, and home to headwaters of major rivers, and *AWARE* that the Carpathians provide crucial healthy ecosystems with ecosystem services within diverse landscapes for millions of people living in the region and beyond;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to achieving the objectives of the Carpathians Convention to cooperate on addressing environmental challenges, improving the quality of life and strengthening the local economies and communities while conserving natural as well as cultural heritage of the Carpathians with consideration of well-being of current and future generations;

RECALLING Article 4 of the Carpathian Convention, which concerns conservation and sustainable use of biological and landscape diversity, and the Protocol on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity to the Carpathian Convention, and recognizing the work of the Carpathian Convention’s Working Groups relevant to the topic of biodiversity, in particular the Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity;

STRESSING the importance of closer and more substantial cooperation with the European Union for addressing the environmental challenges and supporting green and sustainable future of the Carpathian region for the benefit of both, the Carpathians and the European Union;

RECALLING the United Nations General Assembly resolution No. 74/227 on Sustainable mountain development adopted in December 2019, which recognizes the role of the Carpathian Convention in promoting constructive new approaches to integrated, sustainable mountain development and providing a forum for dialogue among stakeholders, and *WELCOMING* the

proclamation of the year 2022 as International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development by the UN General Assembly in resolution No. 76/129 in December 2021;

RECALLING further the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021– 2030 aiming to massively scale up the restoration of degraded and destroyed habitats and ecosystems as a proven preventive measure to fight climate change and to enhance food security, water supply and biodiversity;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the upcoming new global biodiversity framework, its 2050 Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature, where: “By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people,” and the corresponding 2050 Goals and 2030 Action Targets;

RECOGNIZING that the Carpathian Convention provides a regional mechanism for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its new post 2020 global biodiversity framework in the Carpathians, translating the global goals and targets of the new framework to the regional level and thus enhancing implementation in the region as well as, indirectly, in the European Union and *UNDERLINING* the contribution the Carpathian Convention can bring to the implementation of the new global biodiversity framework in the region;

DECLARE that:

- we will examine the possible contribution of the Carpathian region to the implementation of global goals and targets that will be adopted as part of the new post 2020 global biodiversity framework at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 15);
- we will contribute to the development and implementation of a revised Strategic Action Plan to the Carpathian Convention Protocol on Biodiversity that will reflect the agreed post 2020 global biodiversity framework and its goals and action targets, which shall be a comprehensive and ambitious instrument to implement transformative actions by various stakeholders in order to achieve CBD 2050 vision to live in harmony with nature;
- we will support the signature and the implementation of the revised Memorandum of Cooperation between the CBD, the Alpine Convention, and the Carpathian Convention in the light of the new post 2020 global biodiversity framework, to enhance synergies and initiate common activities for the implementation of this new framework, as well as for sharing of experiences with other mountain regions of the world;
- we will promote mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors by using the integrated approach of the Carpathian Conventions towards sustainable development and towards better implementation of the Agenda 2030 and relevant Sustainable Development Goals.