

DECLARATION FROM COSTA RICA AND COLOMBIA TO PROMOTE A PROJECT OF  
RESOLUTION ON BIODIVERCITIES TO BE PRESENTED DURING THE SECOND SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS HABITAT ASSEMBLY 2023

Agenda item 10, second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly in 2023

November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

1. The Governments of Costa Rica and Colombia have advanced in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda as demonstrated in the Voluntary Reports presented in 2021 and 2022 previous to the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly held in April this year.
2. The implementation of the New Urban Agenda has demonstrated how it can benefit from the convergence of two critical aspects: On the one hand, the consolidation of a national framework that can provide coherence and support to the action at local level. On the other hand, the dedicated work at local level combining good planning and design, focus in the most vulnerable territories, and catalytic public funding around urban interventions
3. There has been also innovation in local interventions that have been conceived to advance in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, **but also** to have impact in other global agendas including climate change, biodiversity and the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. One of these innovations in terms of integrated urban strategies and operations has been called **BiodiverCities**: An integrated way to design urban interventions with nature, mindful of biodiversity in urban places, and looking for nature-based solutions that can increase adaptation to climate change, while enabling social inclusion and urban development.
5. The Costa Rican Ministry of Environment and Energy and the Ministry of Housing and Human Settlements have agreed on the National Urban Environment Agenda, as a coordination mechanism between Ministries to improve the execution of sustainable and green cities through a joint public policy that includes local governments, private actors, Universities and society.

6. The Colombian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development has been working hand in hand with local governments and local environmental authorities to bring biodiversity to the center of urban life, so that cities have a new relationship with nature that improves their planning and sustainable urban development. The above, with the aim of contributing to the solution of the main environmental, social and economic problems of cities.
7. The idea to utilize the BiodiverCities approach to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreements and the global Biodiversity objectives, has gained traction regionally and globally. The World Economic Forum has promoted this as one of the promising approaches to advance on climate adaptation from below. The Development Bank of Latin America-CAF has promoted in the region the utilization of the BiodiverCities approach to support a new generation of urban infrastructure investment towards a greener and more sustainable urban development in Latin American countries.
8. Costa Rica and Colombia are willing to promote an acceleration of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda through the BiodiverCities approach, that can complement the existing efforts, and, at the same time, bring new opportunities for innovative financing interested in having integrated impact at local level in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, as well as in the Biodiversity and Climate Change global efforts.
9. BiodiverCities seeks that cities commit to actions that allow urban areas, where 55% of the world's population will live by 2050, to be sustainable places that respect the nature and biodiversity of the regions where they are located, promote urban development with low carbon emissions, contribute to climate adaptation and resilience, and improve the quality of life and well-being of people, as well as promote equity and social inclusion through the acknowledgement of the benefits of biodiversity.
10. As we advance towards the Second Session of the Assembly, we will recommend **including a resolution towards International Guidelines on BiodiverCities** that can bring innovation and support the priorities expressed by Member States to accelerate actions on cities and climate change and localization of the SDGs.
11. We commit to present to the CPR meeting a road map towards a collective process that would lead to a strong resolution on BiodiverCities that can also bring new opportunities for funding as we advance on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the regions.