**DRAFT**

**GANDHINAGAR DECLARATION ON PRIORITIES FOR CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES**

*Recognizing* that the Convention on the Conservation on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is the lead intergovernmental agreement for international cooperation on the conservation of migratory species and their habitats,

*Citing with concern* that the IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, as approved by the IPBES Plenary-7 (Paris, 2019), found that nature and its vital contributions to people are facing an unprecedented decline and has estimated that around 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades, more than ever before in human history,

*Noting* that overexploitation and the loss and fragmentation of habitat are the most serious threats to migratory animals with climate change expected to exacerbate these effects,

*Underlining* the ecological crisis faced by human society, and recognizing the need to take urgent and robust action,

*Noting* that the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Decision 14/34 adopted a comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework that will be the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets,

*Recalling* that the fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to CBD recognized the important role of CMS and other biodiversity-related conventions in contributing to the elaboration of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, in order to consider how it might reflect the priorities of their respective mandates,

*Anticipating* that a post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be adopted by the fifteenth meeting of the CBD COP in Kunming, China, in October 2020,

*Recognizing* that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will set a global agenda for biodiversity for the coming decade, in which the CMS should play an important role, and

*Acknowledging* that a zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework dated 6 January 2020 has been made available by the CBD Secretariat,

*Welcoming* the slogan of the thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (COP13) “*Migratory species connect the planet and together we welcome them home*”,

*The Conference of the Parties to the*

*Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

1. *Affirms* that a commitment to maintaining and restoring ecological connectivity is one of the top priorities for CMS in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, especially for the conservation and sustainable management of migratory species and their habitats, and *calls* for ecological connectivity and the critical role of CMS in this regard to be more effectively reflected in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework than currently contained in the zero draft;
2. *Notes* that ecological connectivity and the implementation of CMS and other biodiversity-related instruments requires international cooperation among States and *calls* for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to include a commitment to enhance international cooperation for its implementation,
3. *Further notes* that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should also effectively reflect the need to address the conservation needs of endangered species and species with an unfavorable conservation status,
4. *Recognizes* the importance of synergies and cooperation among the various biodiversity-related conventions both at the national and international levels, and therefore *recommends* that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework calls for the inclusion in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) of Parties’ commitments under CMS and other biodiversity-related conventions, as relevant,
5. *Further recommends* that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework recognize the importance of better synergies and cooperation among biodiversity-related Conventions including CBD, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), for effective implementation, monitoring, and compliance of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and for more effectively and coherently mobilizing financial resources,
6. *Urges* Parties and other Governments to establish effective liaison mechanisms betweenthe national focal points of CMS and those of CBD as well as of other biodiversity-related conventions, with a view to reflecting the respective priorities of the various agreements in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,
7. *Calls on* Parties and relevant stakeholders to promote the importance of ecological connectivity and the role of CMS in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and to support efforts to address ecological connectivity in other relevant international processes, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030
8. *Decides* to transmit this Declaration to the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 at its second meeting in 2020 and to the CBD COP15 in October 2020.