On 24 and 25 September 2019, Heads of State and Government gathered at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to follow up on the progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The event was the first UN summit on the SDGs since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015.

The SDG Summit resulted in the adoption of the Political Declaration, “Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”. World leaders called for a decade of action to deliver the SDGs by 2030 and announced actions they are taking to advance the agenda. Ramsar Convention Acceleration Action “Wetland inventories to support Contracting Parties to achieve Indicator 6.6.1” is featured under Sustainable Development Goal 6. “Water and Sanitation” in the SDGs acceleration actions.

In the margins of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands participated in the 25th Senior Officials Meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group in New York on 25th September 2019. The EMG brings together the Heads of UN agencies and Multilateral Agreements to address environmental matters. The focus was on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be agreed in 2020. She highlighted the importance of wetlands and the critical contributions of the Convention to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. She emphasized the importance of leveraging the ongoing work of member states in the biodiversity-related conventions into a common post-2020 framework and to ensure alignment with relevant SDG indicators (e.g. SDG 6.6.1.) to avoid duplication and promote collaboration and synergies. Only by working together we will be able to reverse the unprecedented loss of biodiversity for the benefit of nature and people.