



CBD Alliance
SBI 3 online sessions, March 2021

Agenda item 5. Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Madam/Mr Chair. This intervention is delivered on behalf of the CBD Alliance.

The purpose of post-2020 agenda is to support and review the CBD implementation, its means and enabling conditions by which world's biodiversity can be saved as sustainably used. To save biodiversity, the world needs a framework which respects such ways to understand and use biodiversity and allows it to regenerate by actually implementing the following CBD obligations that have been neglected until now:

- "Biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation is "accelerating at an unprecedented rate" and "driven in large part by unsustainable production and consumption". (1) The CBD obliges states to "regulate or manage" such processes and activities under their jurisdiction "regardless of where their effects occur" in the world. (2)
- Among the rich states/elites whose consumption per capita is highest, "lowering total consumption and waste is essential to the overall approach of 'bending the curve' of biodiversity loss". (3) States must regulate "high consumption lifestyles" that push "the planet towards a sixth mass species extinction" (4) and transfer the costs of biodiversity degradation and conservation to poor countries.
- CBD obliges states to "ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States". (5) Voluntary commitments or corporations' self-reporting on what they choose to report can not thus fulfil the CBD obligations which legally bind states to bend and reverse the curve of accelerating global biodiversity loss.
- As "protecting the human rights of [...] local communities has been shown to result in improved protection for ecosystems and biodiversity" and "the knowledge and practices of the people who live in biodiversity-rich ecosystems are vital to the conservation and sustainable use of those ecosystems" (6), thus to save biodiversity states have to determine its use by local people's rights to food, water, health and to live by the regeneration of local biodiversity..

The implementation of all the above referred obligations and objectives are necessary to build awareness on such "sense of urgency for immediate action to halt the loss of biodiversity" and such "connections of people to biodiversity" by which our life can allow biodiversity to flourish which are provided in CBD/SBI/3/4/Add.1 as the first key Elements for messaging in Communication for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. (7)

Unfortunately even though the draft post-2020 GBF says it aims to "eliminate unsustainable consumption" and production (8) it does not ensure - not even propose - action that could in practice prevent our growing unsustainable consumption and production from further escalating global biodiversity loss.

Instead it only boosts further voluntarisation of responsibilities, expansion of commercial control of Earth's life by 'nature-based solutions' business initiatives, mere self-monitoring by corporations, certification and other similar things whose decades-long expansion has not prevented global biodiversity loss from continuously accelerating.

Thus the planned draft-GBF focused approach will violate states' above presented legal CBD obligations and guarantee that the ongoing global biodiversity loss continues to accelerate.

SBI's responsibility is to oversee that what ever framework is adopted must implement all CBD obligations and secure implementation of those CBD obligations most neglected. World's biodiversity can be saved only if the rights of ways of life

which allow biodiversity to regenerate are made stronger than the rights to live in ways which undermine, displace, degrade or pollute biodiversity. The GBF needs to ensure that states act to eliminate unsustainable consumption patterns and lifestyles and to ensure that production, consumption and trade are not taking place at the expense of biodiversity. In the current draft target 15, this is addressed merely by raising people's awareness. It is unacceptable that the burden is upon citizens alone; we need states to impose their necessary regulations and incentives.

Notes and references

1. Leaders' Pledge to Reverse Biodiversity Loss by 2030 UN High Level Summit on Biodiversity 2020
2. CBD articles 4.(b), 7 (c) and 8 (l)
3. Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 (GBO-5), page 181
4. IPBES/6/L.9/Rev.1, Annex, Summary for policymakers, sections A1, B2, B3 and B4,
5. CBD articles 3 and 4 b,
6. A/HRC/34/49, paragraph 59
7. CBD/SBI/3/4/Add.1, a-b
8. Proposed post-2020 GBF Targets 14 and 15