

24th May 2021

To: Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the CBD
To: Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist, Chair of SBI
CC: Members of the COP Bureau, serving as the bureau for SBI

Letter of Concern about the procedures regarding the Long-Term approach to Mainstreaming and its Action Plan

Dear Madam, Sir,

We are writing you to express our deep concern about the process regarding Mainstreaming, which currently violates several of the principles of a Party driven process.

So far drafting the Long-Term Approach to Mainstreaming (LTAM) and its 'Action plan' has been conducted in an untransparent and unbalanced way. The way forward as proposed in draft SBI text SBI-3-13 would continue this situation.

The Informal Advisory Group - which has an equal number of Parties as observers - was complemented with the Extended Consultative Network, which includes a significant number of participants with a conflict of interest. This was not decided by a COP decision. There has been **no transparency regarding the contributions of the ECN**, although it is clear many comments have been accepted.

Due to the postponement of item 11 until the plenary of 28th May, it seems likely that there will not be time to set up a contact group on the topic. This could remove the possibility for Parties to address this important issue with the attention it deserves, as stated in decision 14.3, which says mainstreaming 'should be one of the key elements of the GBF'.

The draft recommendation SBI-3-13 proposes to continue the IAG, and to continue to promote, expand and provide support to the Global Partnership on Business and Biodiversity. There is - yet again - **no clarity on the continuity or role of the ECN**.

This proposal would continue the **exclusion of most Parties**, and allow the undue influence of interests that wish to avoid regulation and measures vital for addressing biodiversity destruction. Due to these **conflicts of interest**, they should not be part of the drafting nor decision making process.

Flawed processes lead to flawed results. And indeed, we find abundant problems in the LTAM and its action plan. We will gladly provide our views on these aspects, as well as more information which is available [here](#).

Instead of continuing with the current process as above, we call for the discussions on mainstreaming to now be taken up as a matter of urgency by all Parties to the CBD in an open and concerted process.