



CBD Alliance
SBI 3, May 2021

Agenda item 3. Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

Madam / Mr. chair, this statement is delivered on behalf of the CBD Alliance, which gathers a diverse range of views and proposals from civil society.

A more profound analysis of the structural causes for why parties have failed to fulfill Aichi Targets is required together with strategies to avoid further failure. For example, recent analysis in 9 different countries showed that corporate capture of policy-making was a key obstacle to implementing Aichi Target 3 on perverse incentives. As a result, an estimated 4 to 6 trillion USD continues to be spent on perverse incentives that harm biodiversity, including in sectors like the livestock and bioenergy sector. Only by ensuring public policy making is independent from private sector commercial interests, we can pursue the genuine transformational change essential to accomplish our common objectives.

There is also concern that governments have focused too much on low-hanging fruit like establishing conventional protected areas, while deprioritizing support for conservation measures that have been more equitable, sustainable and resilient like Indigenous Peoples and local community conserved territories and areas and other forms of collective action based on traditional knowledge and value systems.

Also, and despite the adoption of the Gender Action Plan, the valuable role, and rights, of women in biodiversity conservation are hardly recognized and even less supported and mainstreamed: gender action continues to be a lonely pillar rather than an integrated element in all biodiversity policies.

Rooted power imbalances and lack of respect for the rights and role of IPLCs and women and their equitable participation in decision-making have been key obstacles to implementing Aichi Targets related to equitable governance of conserved areas and traditional knowledge, and it is important these obstacles are addressed in any future strategic plan.

In terms of implementation, the financial mechanism of the CBD, the GEF, has not always been fully aligned with CBD COP guidance, and it has even financed projects that are exceptionally harmful to biodiversity - we can give examples of that upon request.

As we learned from the Global Biodiversity Outlook, existing CBD decisions including the Aichi Targets are still not complied with. We urge governments to focus on this implementation gap, especially now that the dramatic COVID-19 crisis will most likely make it impossible to organize normal face-to-face negotiations in the coming year. **With the current GBF draft, we risk serious regression from previous CBD decisions, and the undermining of the basic CBD text and the 3 objectives of the convention.** We need to use this extra time to move ahead full speed towards meeting the existing Aichi Targets and prepare for an inclusive, balanced, equitable and transparent negotiation process for the robust, effective and inspiring post-2020 Strategic Plan required to enhance the implementation of the CBD.

We continue to believe that formal virtual negotiations disadvantage most developing countries and civil society, particularly IPLCs, small farmers, women and youth, adding to inequities in multilateral negotiations and other global injustices. However, we participate in good faith, in order to amplify the voices of the disadvantaged.

Thank you.