

Closing of OEWG2 - General civil society statement - Final version

Thank you, Chair.

I am making a general statement on behalf of 18 civil society organisations.

Despite support from some Parties on our proposals, we are concerned that we have not seen the overall level of **ambition** needed to halt and start to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, for people and planet. We must not move backwards from the Aichi Targets which are already failing to safeguard biodiversity, yet we have seen some worrying trends this week. We have less than eight months before COP15 and we have not made enough progress to converge around an ambitious and equitable outcome.

If we want to succeed then we need to focus on these key elements:

- First, both goals and targets need to be **meaningful and measurable**. Generic statements will not help us deliver urgent transformative change by 2030, **not by 2050!**
- Second, targets achieve nothing if they are not implemented. We need to make sure that central to the framework are principles and rights, resources, tools, defined terms and mechanisms for **implementation, participation and accountability** to effectively and equitably deliver all goals and targets.
- Finally, we need to raise the political **profile and relevance** of the framework across this 'super year' for nature.

Our statement is not able to capture a rich and diverse range of issues and perspectives. These are crucial for the development of an inclusive framework, and we are concerned about the amount of space being given to civil society. For example, small- scale food producers should have their own voice in this process.

We have **no more time to lose**. We need to step up our collective efforts for the future of life on Earth. We need to ensure that SBSTTA and SBI deliver major progress toward the development of an ambitious, inclusive, comprehensive and focused post-2020 framework.

Thank you, Chair.

This statement is supported by the following organizations:

Client Earth, International Fund for Animal Welfare, WWF, ICCA Consortium, World Animal Net, Australian Conservation Foundation, Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN), Avaaz, Friends of the Earth International, ETC Group, ACB, EcoNexus, BirdLife, Australian Rainforest Conservation Society, Wildlife Conservation Society, JCN-UNJB, Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy.