



SBSTTA 24

Agenda item 6. Marine and Coastal Biodiversity

Mr / Madam Chair

This statement is delivered on behalf of the CBD Alliance.

Conservation and sustainable development of marine and coastal biodiversity needs to be built on a strong fundament of all SDGs, human rights, and peace. Without a human rights-based approach and well-informed concern about the sustainability of ocean uses, biodiversity conservation might become a tool for ocean and coastal land grabbing, dispossession, displacement, impoverishment and marginalization of traditional users and an unfair use and distribution of the benefits derived from the use of ocean resources and environmental degradation continues.

We need to protect the ocean from the threats that are eroding its ability to function as our life support system, to attend the ocean-biodiversity-climate emergency which is accelerating, and this requires its explicit inclusion in targets 1,2 and 17 of the GBF and no more business as usual.

The CBD should call for a halt of seabed mining for explorative and for commercial purposes and call for a mining ban considering that The International Seabed Authority has already given licenses for exploration to several Parties present here today. We ask for a total ban also on activities that undermine the ocean capacity for sustainable use and in a framework of a just and equitable distribution of benefits.

We call on parties to strengthen existing obligations under the CBD, that prohibit marine geo-engineering and discourage experimental ocean-engineering techniques as this entails incalculable risks to marine life, biodiversity, numerous environment and development goals, human rights, and planetary health.

Any conservation target for 2030 needs to recognize and protect that local communities and indigenous peoples, including small-scale fisher-folks, who are the critical holders of knowledge and rights as well as active caretakers of the sea and coasts. They need also take systematically

into account power imbalances, gender and the role of women and girls in all their diversity. We call on parties to ensure that conservation initiatives promote and protect efforts of collaborative and community-based local governance regimes and guarantee recognition of local and indigenous governance models that can assure their protection from globalized markets and finance.

A human rights-based ecosystem approach is an intrinsic component of an integrated governance that balances conservation and sustainable use in the ocean and regulates all relevant tools, including marine protected areas, marine spatial planning (MSP) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA). FPIC, the SSF Guidelines and SDG 14.b need to be incorporated in coherent spatial planning and obligatory strategic environmental assessment evaluating cumulative environmental, socio-economic, cultural and gender-biased impacts, both beneficial and adverse, of biodiversity-related activities carried out in coastal and marine areas or affecting their goods and services.

The identification and delimitation of OECMs should include IPLC, women, small scale fishers and other right holders and ensure support to Indigenous Community Conserved Areas, Marine Managed Areas, Locally Management Marine Areas, and other fisheries, community-based and shared-governance arrangements with a variety of primary goals that are relevant to biodiversity and that FPIC should be consider concerning this areas. The governance of these areas should privilege selective, small-scale fishing practices and protect local value chains and local markets. Monitoring elements and indicators for Target 2, can include reporting on the number, area, and contributions of such areas.

Finally, we believe, that an innovative ocean-responsive biodiversity framework that will lead us to a new relationship with the ocean, will need to create a balance between the protection of the intrinsic value of marine and coastal species and their ecosystems and the empowerment and participation of vulnerable groups, small-scale fisherwomen, and fishermen, with a strong core on the right to live in a healthy ocean for all.

Thank you