

Thank you, Madame chair
This is great stake

Opening statement by the CBD Alliance to CBD SBSTTA-17 We

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~~Good morning.~~ I am speaking on behalf of the CBD Alliance, the open alliance of all civil society groups who follow the CBD process. ~~Our statements is~~ in support of the statements of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity. We thank you for this opportunity to contribute to this debate. We appreciate the attempt to renew the format of the SBSTTA meetings, but we hope it will not lead to a lack of time for a discussion on concrete recommendations for action and new and emerging issues, which should remain a recurrent theme of the SBSTTA.

It is crucial that the voices of rightsholder groups such as indigenous peoples and local communities, including farmers, fisherfolk and women, be heard in the coming days, because their knowledge is crucial for biodiversity conservation. Their rights, including their Farmer's rights, recently reaffirmed by the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA, and livelihoods should be respected. ~~We would like to express our disappointment that several IPO and NGO representatives from the South cannot be here due to the fact that their visas were refused. We hope the contributions of experts to the SBSTTA plenary panel discussions will be regionally balanced, and that in the future, experts nominated by the different rightsholder groups will be included in the panels. It is also important to include sufficient experts in the social sciences, as well as traditional knowledge systems.)~~

A gap analysis is important for all levels, but input is needed from civil society and Indigenous Peoples on specific gaps that need to be addressed. We do not deny the importance of scientific research, but considering the overwhelming amount of biodiversity research available, the real need now is for concrete implementation and action that prevents biodiversity loss based on existing guidance and science. Moreover, providing advice to the IPBES to undertake more in-depth research is useful, but we should make sure SBSTTA does not become subservient to IPBES.

Regarding the review of the Aichi targets, we want to emphasize that Goal A is paramount for the implementation of the Convention. As for Target 2, we express the concern that the holistic valuation of biodiversity is important, but it should not lead to financialization, privatization and/or commodification of the commons.

Overall, we highlight the importance of taking into account guidance from the Ad Hoc Working Group on Article 8j, including its guidance on customary sustainable use. Implementing Target 18 is crucial in this respect, and we are surprised that this target, and Strategic Goal E in general, is not on the agenda of this SBSTTA. The guidance of the Working Group on Article 8j is particularly important for the implementation of Aichi targets 7 and 15. Small-scale farmers, livestock keepers and fisherfolk, especially women, have crucial knowledge and rich experiences in sustainable use that contribute significantly to biodiversity conservation and food sovereignty, including the in situ conservation of genetic resources for food and agriculture. In this light, we are very concerned that the actions of one Party might lead to a breach of the moratorium on terminator technology agreed here through decision v/5 and we call on Governments to fully respect this moratorium. Another precondition for Aichi target 7 is the full compliance with Aichi target 3, as we will never reach sustainable ecosystem management if perverse incentives continue to be in place for destructive processes like industrial fisheries, livestock and bioenergy production and large-scale monocultures.

Last but not least, biodiversity conservation should not be limited to protected areas. Too many protected areas are islands in a sea of destruction – and often they are hardly protected at all. One of our main challenges is to mainstream biodiversity conservation in all economic development and land use policies, including the post-

9

2015 development agenda, and to respect and support territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

We trust that the new SBSTTA agenda will allow for more inputs by parties and civil society to be taken into account, and we are hopeful that our deliberations this week will lead to a constructive yet critical action agenda to halt the ongoing loss of biodiversity.