

Cameroon's Statement: Special Virtual Session of SBSTTA24 and SBI3 on "Biodiversity, One Health and COVID-19."

Cameroon supports the statement made by South Africa on behalf of Africa.

Chair,

We recognize that as per principle 15 of the Rio Declaration, the absence of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation, but we also think that to be effective in our approach to appropriately combat COVID-19 in conformity with the theme of this virtual session, it is important for the cause and/or origin of this pandemics to be clearly determined:

Is it a pandemic of zoonotic or biotechnological risk origin??

What so ever be the case, it is evident that we stick to the domain of intervention of the CBD, whose actions have as prime goal to promote the right to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

While acknowledging the fact that the "One Health approach" should be based on scientific evidence and draw lessons and conclusions from the scientific work conducted by the eminent experts from all over the world, Cameroon thinks that the COVID-19 crisis permitted us to reveal the importance of our nature particularly plants as most African countries and Cameroon embarked on trails based on medicinal plants which are pending the necessary clinical trials. This demonstrates the effectiveness of the solutions offered by nature which provides most of the elements for pharmaceutical industries.

All this underpins the importance of the preservation and promotion of our cultural roots and associated traditional knowledge.

We therefore believe that the discuss on the "One Health approach" should grant a significant position and listening ear to the IPLCs, who as custodians and protectors of most of our cultures, traditional knowledge and associated technics, can play a vital role in situations of scientific uncertainty.

Thank you chair.