



CBD Alliance

SBI 3 online sessions, March 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 on behalf of the CBD Alliance, which gathers a diverse range of views and proposals from civil society.

Evidence shows that progress made in the CBD so far is not enough which results in the continued destruction of our mother nature. The still timid efforts to address the root causes of biodiversity loss are greatly outweighed by policies that harm nature instead.

For example, according to the Dasgupta review perverse incentives that trigger biodiversity loss come to some 4 to 6 trillion USD annually. Parties have generally failed to adjust country legislation and incentives to the objectives of the CBD and its Strategic Plan 2010-2020. Budgets for the environment are only a fraction of what is spent on trade and support to the economy, and the overall sum of perverse incentives is at five to ten times as high as that spent for biodiversity¹. Recent analysis has shown that the main obstacle to perverse incentive reform is the corporate capture of policy-making so as long as the very corporations that benefit from harmful subsidies play a dominant role in policy-making, there is little chance for old or new biodiversity targets to be met.

The failure of many parties to implement the commitments in the basic text of the CBD and the failure of other parties to hold them to account, as well as the failure to implement previous decisions of the CBD, is a fundamental problem. It means that the CBD is constantly creating new 'commitments' for the future, while failing to act on those already made.

Gender mainstreaming remains something that is mainly discussed within the framework of the gender Plan of Action and is also not something that actually gets implemented: Many preparatory documents of the Secretariat continue to be partly or fully gender blind and even if the role of

¹ OECD (2020), Paulson institute - presented at the CBD resource mobilization workshop in Berlin, 14-16 January 2020

women is mentioned, the analysis prepared by the Secretariat lacks a sincere gender assessment of all the different aspects of biodiversity conservation.

Meanwhile, the implementation of the Aichi Targets has focused on low-hanging fruit like the designation of conventional protected areas, but not on necessary management and additionality as a biodiversity conservation measure or equity and participation, with the consequence of unacceptable human rights violations. Other equally important targets, such as Aichi target 3 on removing perverse incentives, Aichi target 7 on making agriculture, forestry and fisheries sustainable or Aichi target 8 on reducing pollution have even been so insufficiently addressed that the situation is still getting worse instead of better. Also, the lack of implementation of Target 18: Respecting traditional knowledge and practices of Indigenous Peoples and Local communities (IPLCs), customary use of biological resources and implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of IPLCs indicates that the political will to conserve, restore and halt biodiversity loss is still low.

We remind parties that the postponement of the adoption of a post-2020 GBF is no excuse for inaction. Parties to the CBD have legal obligations still unmet, as Aichi Targets have not been achieved, and should increase efforts to accomplish them and the objectives of the Convention and the ultimate vision of living in harmony with nature. We would like to kindly remind parties of Decision 14/1 in which COP 14 clearly calls parties to do exactly just that.

Thank you,