



SBI-3 Informal Session

Statement by the **Global Youth Biodiversity Network**

Agenda Item 5. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework: Statement on the implementation plan and capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol

March 9, 2021

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Thank you Madame Chair. I am speaking on behalf of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network.

Biosafety is an intergenerational issue, with negative and possibly irreversible impacts that could be felt far into the future. All actors, all sectors, all ministries must act with intergenerational equity in mind, strictly applying the precautionary principle in cases where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage to biodiversity. We also call on Parties to ratify the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress.

We thank everyone involved for their efforts in putting together the draft Implementation plan and Capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol. We found that the plan contains many good and important elements. In particular, we highlight that it provides guidance to implement actions and comply with the obligations under the Protocol, while **not neglecting** to have a plan for the **enabling environment** to fulfill these obligations. We have hopes that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework can reach the same level of attention and commitment to its Enabling Conditions.

We also want to highlight the inclusion of crucial elements on socio-economic impacts of living modified organisms, on mainstreaming biosafety in education, on public consultation, on access to information for the public, and on mechanisms to enable participation in decision-making. We point out that potential cultural and health impacts must not be ignored, and that consultations must allow for the **full and effective** participation of rightsholders. We also remind Parties that we as youth are ready to be key strategic partners in implementing these elements in a respectful and inclusive way. Furthermore, there is a need to mobilize resources to support developing countries and to guarantee the participation of women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities from early stages in order to turn this plan into reality.

As a final point, we remind you again that when we **do not** take the measures needed to ensure biosafety of the highest standards, youth, women, Indigenous peoples and local communities will be **hardest hit** by the impacts. Thus, in the implementation of these plans as with all other aspects of the Convention, we call for Parties to carefully consider what **truly meaningful participation** means when engaging with rightsholders on these important matters. **This does not just mean us being in the room.** It means that the information needed to make informed decisions must flow down to communities in **forms and language that we can understand.** It means **institutionalizing mechanisms** that allow for continual participation rather than one-off events. It means being gender-responsive, and disaggregating data by age, sex, and indigenous status. And for indigenous peoples, it means respecting their rights to **free, prior, informed consent and the right to self-determination.** Taking these steps will pave a way toward just and equitable implementation.

Thank you Madame Chair. #