



Global Youth
Biodiversity
Network



Empowering
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Biodiversity

SBI-3 Informal Session

Statement by the **Global Youth Biodiversity Network**

Agenda Item 6. Resource mobilization and the financial mechanism

10th of March 2021

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Note by Executive Secretary:

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/2c34/9558/f1487764d65e89bafb74d8fa/sbi-03-05-en.pdf>

Thank you Madame Chair.

There is a simple truth here: the success of any framework or implementation plan, the Post-2020 GBF included, will stand or fall depending on our ability to mobilize resources.

In the past twelve months, we have seen what can be possible to achieve if our political leaders realize the life-threatening urgency of a situation and act accordingly. 21 trillion US dollars have been mobilized in the past 12 months by governments and central banks to protect our economies from COVID-19.

This figure shows us that a lot can be done when there is political will.

We wonder where was this political will in the last 10 years? Biodiversity is the very basis of our livelihoods, economies, culture, identity and our future – is this less important than saving our economies?

Distinguished delegates – we need to mobilize all our efforts in breaking with business as usual when it comes to resource mobilization. Otherwise, the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will not reach very far, and we will meet again in 10 years to find out that little has changed.

We are calling on you to take urgent action, especially in the following areas:

First, We need a strict time-bound action plan to eliminate subsidies that are harmful to Biodiversity once and for all by 2030. This must be done through a just transition that addresses local and global inequalities in political power and access to resources. This needs to be reflected in the proposals presented under this item.

We also call on parties to reject voluntary approaches with regards to the elimination of harmful subsidies, as these have, up to now, shown little success in slowing global biodiversity loss and have not addressed the underlying drivers of it.



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We instead urge parties to take strong regulatory action and to establish globally coordinated legal frameworks, to ensure that businesses, including financial institutions, transition to fairer and more sustainable practices and divest from biodiversity-harmful investments.

This must also ensure that trade and investment agreements have strict social and environmental safeguards and do not have provisions that undermine CBD objectives as well as wider human, Indigenous, and peasant rights. Such a regulatory approach should also include both incentives and sanctions for non-compliance.

Second, we are deeply concerned about the situation of public budgets in a post-COVID world, particularly in developing countries. Already, the accumulation of public debt is spiralling out of control in many countries, placing a huge burden on future generations, further diminishing the availability of crucial domestic resources for the implementation of the Post-2020 GBF.

We therefore urge parties that are in a creditor position to allow for payment relief on debt as well as to restructure and cancel debt, based on transparent Biodiversity conservation performance indicators, giving developing countries the fiscal breathing space to implement the Post-2020 GBF in an equitable and socially-just manner.

In this context, we also support calls to request SBI to undertake a study on the relationship between debt, austerity and CBD implementation, with a view to removing specific impediments to CBD implementation and informing future work on the resource mobilization mechanism.

We support the proposal for the establishment of national resource mobilization plans and nationally determined targets. We further wish to emphasize the importance of a whole-of-government approach in resource mobilization and the critical importance of robust baselines for resource mobilization.

Finally, we consider it as crucial to recognize that financial support for IPLCs is not commensurate with their contributions to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity. It is critical to mobilize more adequate financial resources to support IPLCs.

Distinguished delegates, the last ten years offer a lot of lessons learned when it comes to resource mobilization and the last twelve months have shown us that we can overcome seemingly giant obstacles.

We ask you to break with business as usual and to use the same spirit when we talk about resource mobilization towards a sustainable and equitable future in harmony with nature.

Thank you Madame Chair.