

## Comment on scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by Emmaus Aurinkotehdas ry

The post2020 biodiversity framework needs to promote CBD2050 vision for biodiversity - which is "Living in Harmony with Nature" where "by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used [...] sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people". (1)

As the Convention on Biological Diversity does not itself however further define or determine "Living in Harmony with Nature", we need to reflect what is then the focus of mandate and such task to act for "Living in Harmony with Nature" which the UN has determined for CBD implementation in this respect?

While the SDG 12.8 says that the states must "by 2030 ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature" (2), on such lifestyles the CBD sets for the states a commitment to respect the knowledge and "practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity". (3)

UN General Assembly in its new resolution on "**Harmony with Nature**" in this respect "**invites States [...] to promote harmony with the Earth, including as found in indigenous cultures, to learn from those cultures**" (4) and resolution on CBD invites states to "engaging indigenous peoples and local communities [...] to support action towards the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity and [...] implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework". (5)

UN General Assembly is in its resolution on "Harmony with Nature" also recognising:

- the need for "promoting and ensuring an equitable, balanced and sustainable relationship with the Earth" and "the work undertaken by [...] local communities and indigenous peoples with regard to signalling the precariousness of life on Earth" (6)
- "that many ancient civilizations, indigenous peoples and indigenous cultures have a rich history of understanding the symbiotic connection between human beings and nature that fosters a mutually beneficial relationship" (7)
- what "contributes to the coexistence of humankind in harmony with nature" is important - also for "ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems [...] and the protection of biodiversity, recognized by some cultures as Mother Earth, promoting [...] an equitable, balanced and sustainable relationship with the Earth" (8)
- that as "planet Earth and its ecosystems are our home " and many countries consider "Mother Earth the source of all life and nourishment and [...] a living community" with humankind, we need thus such "integrated approaches to sustainable development" which "lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystems" (9)
- "that the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities can support social well-being and sustainable livelihoods and therefore contribute to global efforts and initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals" (10)
- "that fundamental changes in the way societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development and that all countries should promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, with the developed countries taking the lead" "while promoting local culture, protecting the environment" (11)

These kind of "transformational changes needed to realize the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity" have to be carried out to build 'Harmony with Nature' - to achieve the CBD 2050 vision for biodiversity, to adequately protect ecosystems and to "effectively incorporate [...] the perspectives of indigenous peoples and local communities" in "the post-2020 global biodiversity framework". (12)

They are needed also to secure the survival of species, to prevent collapse of ecosystems, to address health problems caused by loss of biodiversity (13) and to ensure that "by 2030, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, at all relevant levels." (14)

For millenniums biodiversity has survived well in vast parts of the Earth as far as these have been held by indigenous peoples and local communities who have lived there. But as far as such areas have been captured by the 'modern development' and commercial actors, so far the biodiversity and ecosystems have soon started to erode.

The current rapidly accelerating collapse of biodiversity and Earth's ecosystems has resulted from such 'modern development' driven by the commercial and technical applications of the 'science of nature' which has made possible and maintains the prevailing overconsumption that wastes and pollutes the earth. The way how this 'development' has continued to 'solve' world's problems for the last 250 years by its technological and commercial 'solutions' and applications of the natural science has overconsumed and polluted the Earth and its life's diversity.

It is thus a severe problem if the world assumes it can continue to address the crisis by this same search of commercial techno-scientific 'solutions', which has led to this crisis and threatens to overconsume and pollute the Earth. World needs to recognise Earth's rights to its diversity of life by "shift from a human-centred to an Earth-centred" approach for example through "universal declaration of the rights of Mother Earth", "Earth jurisprudence" or by "affirming or restoring the rights of rivers, forests or glaciers" (15)

States need "better consideration of the direct and indirect impacts of policies and production and consumption patterns, on biological diversity, [...] and effects on, distant places and ecosystems, and better addressing the implications on biodiversity of policy decisions and production and consumption" (16) They need "to adopt more [...] biodiversity-friendly sustainable practices" and "to achieve a transformational change in society's relationship with biodiversity" states need to take into account "the full impact of production and consumption processes along the entire supply chain and product life cycle on biodiversity" and opportunities provided by "non-monetary approaches, to valuing biodiversity and ecosystem function". (17)

"The effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities" to biodiversity management is crucial for achieving these aims and for "promoting and developing governance systems which address biodiversity issues in a more coherent manner and better internalize global biodiversity commitments, including by improving the integration of indigenous and local knowledge [...] in governance processes, and by better accounting for possible synergies in the implementation of [...] multilateral agreements" (18) - including how implementation of human rights and commitments on biodiversity can support each other.

Like the recent 'Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration on Nature and Culture' (CBD & UNESCO session 2018) notes, due to the high correlation of biodiversity and cultural diversity, the realisation of the "visions of futures - Living in Harmony with Nature" needs:

- "in the development of the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework" measures to "support and promote the intergenerational transmission of indigenous and local languages and knowledge, [...] to promote the recovery of cultural and biological diversity; (19)

- "Acknowledging the customary management of biodiversity, customary law, traditional knowledge and ways of life represented by customary procedures and biocultural community protocols" "to bridge the artificial divide between biological and cultural diversity". (20)

- "international cooperation on links between biological and cultural diversity to achieve the global vision of humanity "Living in Harmony with Nature" by 2050" also "to advocate and promote the integration of links between biological and cultural diversity within all economic, social and cultural development" (21)

"Emphasising that success in the vision of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Sustainable Development Goals necessitates" also the recognition of indigenous peoples' and local communities' "rights to territories, natural resources, customary sustainable use and their related traditional knowledge" (22) so that states need :

- to address "the interplay and consequences between human rights and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, including the human right to a healthy environment" and "synergies between interlinked provisions of international conventions and programmes dealing with biological and cultural diversity" (23)

- "to accelerate the recognition of indigenous peoples' lands, waters and territories of life as a means to trigger a transformational change in the protection of biological diversity and cultural heritage, for all life on Earth." with "a whole Earth approach equitably governed and sustainably managed [...] within mosaic biocultural landscapes; (24)

## Notes and references

1. CBD2050 vision for biodiversity
2. SDG 12.8
3. CBD article 8 (j)
4. UN General Assembly resolution 2018 on Harmony with Nature, A/C.2/73/L.39/Rev.1, 21 November 2018, paragraph 9b
5. A/C.2/73/L.33/Rev.1, UN General Assembly resolution 2018 on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development paragraphs 5 (d) and 18 - which note that these are needed also to correct the "limited progress made in mainstreaming article 8 (j) of the Convention and related provisions"
6. UN General Assembly resolution 2018 on Harmony with Nature, A/C.2/73/L.39/Rev.1, preface
7. UN General Assembly resolution 2018 on Harmony with Nature, A/C.2/73/L.39/Rev.1, preface
8. UN General Assembly resolution 2018 on Harmony with Nature, A/C.2/73/L.39/Rev.1, preface and paragraph 10
9. UN General Assembly resolution 2018 on Harmony with Nature, A/C.2/73/L.39/Rev.1, paragraph 8
10. UN General Assembly resolution 2018 on Harmony with Nature, A/C.2/73/L.39/Rev.1, preface
11. UN General Assembly resolution 2018 on Harmony with Nature, A/C.2/73/L.39/Rev.1, preface
12. CBD/COP/14/INF/16, paragraphs 5 and 28 p
13. CBD/COP/14/INF/16, paragraphs 16 a, b, f, g and j
14. CBD/COP/14/INF/16, paragraph n
15. A/73/221 Report of the Secretary-General on Harmony with Nature 2018, paragraphs 99, 103 and 106
16. CBD/COP/14/L.2, 21 November 2018, Updated Assessment of Progress Towards Selected Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Options to Accelerate Progress, ANNEX Possible Options to Accelerate Progress Towards the Achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, paragraph f
17. CBD/COP/14/L.2, paragraphs j, n, o, and u
18. CBD/COP/14/L.2, paragraphs h and i
19. CBD/COP/14/INF/46, 25 November 2018, The Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration on Nature and Culture (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/8b76/d85e/c62f920c5fd8c4743e5193e1/cop-14-inf-46-en.pdf>), preface and paragr. 5-6
20. CBD/COP/14/INF/46, The Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration on Nature and Culture, preface
21. CBD/COP/14/INF/46, The Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration on Nature and Culture, paragraphs 2 and 13
22. CBD/COP/14/INF/46, The Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration on Nature and Culture, preface
23. CBD/COP/14/INF/46, The Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration on Nature and Culture, paragraphs 15 and 18
24. CBD/COP/14/INF/46, The Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration on Nature and Culture, paragraphs 20-21

15 December 2018

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