

## **SUBMISSION BY THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA**

### **Elements for a draft decision related to the review of implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization and of the preliminary reporting framework**

The Plurinational State of Bolivia considers that the strategy for resource mobilization, and later the filling of a preliminary reporting framework, targeted to achieve the Aichi targets, should first take into account the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development. This means the need to halt the conceptual framework and all instruments conducive to implement the "green economy" as the panacea for the conservation of the biological diversity, since it is only one of a variety of tools available for achieving sustainable development.

In this context, it is important to highlight the reserve of Bolivia to this topic included in the Rio+20 agreed document, as follows: *“The Plurinational State of Bolivia does not recognize the 'green economy' as a tool for sustainable development and poverty eradication and reserves all references to "green economy" and any interpretation arising that could be implied as the commodification of functions and the cycles of nature, payment for environmental services, evasion of commitments by developed countries to developing countries, trade distortion and justification of unilateral measures, new obligations for developing countries and conditionalities of the cooperation for sustainable development of developed countries or any financial institution to developing countries”.*

Bolivia warns that the mainstream in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is to establish a vision towards the valuing of biodiversity and the payment of ecosystem services in order to give leverage and power to the private sector and to the markets in the conservation of biodiversity. This means moving the forces of capitalism to the nature. This implies putting in risk the livelihoods of indigenous and local people, and of the common goods. This vision can be designed as a new form of colonialism or “environmental colonialism”. In this vision developed countries continue implementing a developmental model oriented to the destruction of the planet because of their unsustainable patterns of production and consumption; the role of nature conservation is transferred to the poor people of developing countries; and the private sector is strengthened in order to access to the environmental functions of nature through its privatization and commercialization.

Consequently, Bolivia invites all Parties to have a real commitment in order to change this scenario which is pushing a "environmental colonialism" in the world. This compromise should be reflected in the shaping of a different setting for moving the objectives of the CBD and the Aichi targets. The establishment of the new scenario should consider at least the following issues:

- i. Recognize the rights of Mother Earth, which includes at least the principles of Ensuring Regeneration of Mother Earth and No Commodification of Nature, as well as the Rights to Life, Rights to Diversity of Life, and Rights to Water.

- ii. Recognize a new civilization and cultural horizon alternative to the capitalism, which is entitled in Bolivia as the “*Vivir Bien*” (Well Living), seeking to achieve equity and balance not only between individuals but also between humans and Mother Earth.
- iii. Halt the worldwide commodification and financialization of the environmental functions of nature<sup>1</sup>;
- iv. Achieve the objectives of the CBD in the context of the Common But Differentiated Responsibilities of both developed and developing country Parties, and
- v. Strengthening the role of the State (the public) and of the collective action in the conservation of biodiversity and in the sustainable use of its components.

The recognition of the rights of Mother Earth is essential in the context of the implementation of the CBD objectives. This means to incorporate the understanding that nature is sacred and a living system, and that it is the home sustaining and reproducing all living beings, ecosystems, biodiversity, and individuals as an indivisible unit. This non-anthropocentric understanding of nature should allow the achievement of a just balance among the economic, social and environmental issues in the implementation of the CBD objective in all developed and developing Parties.

According to the Plurinational State of Bolivia, any work related to the evaluation of indicators and a strategy for resource mobilization should consider previously the need to establish a framework for the understanding of the Article 20 of the CBD regarding financial resources. This framework should set up some criteria and parameters for the assessment and evaluation of the indicators of the resource mobilization strategy in light of all the elements highlighted in the Article 20 of the CBD. This implies establishing an understanding about what is meant by the right balance with respect to the commitment of developed and developing countries in financing the conservation of biodiversity. Particularly, it is important for Bolivia analyze the issues related to financial resources taking into account the Common But Differentiated Responsibilities of both developed and developing country Parties. This also implies the establishment of the differentiated weight of each indicator in the strategy for resource mobilization and in the preliminary reporting framework.

In this context, there is the urgent need to reorient the Aichi targets in the context of the process of work of the Sustainable Development Goals, which has been established in the Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, 2020). In Rio+20 all countries of the world have agreed that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools

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<sup>1</sup> Bolivia is against the commodification of the environmental functions of nature but not against the commercialization of some products obtained from nature as a result of an integral and sustainable management of ecosystems (i.e. timber and non-timber forest products, and other agricultural and livestock products). The environmental functions are the result of the interactions between the flora and fauna of ecosystems, the physical space or environment (abiotic) and the solar energy. Examples of environmental functions include, purification and detoxification (air, water and soil), biological control (regulation of population dynamics, control of pests and diseases), recycling of nutrients (nitrogen fixation, phosphorus, potassium), soil formation (weathering of rocks and organic matter accumulation ), the regulation of greenhouse gases (carbon emission reduction, carbon sequestration or uptake), and provision of scenic beauty and landscape (landscape).

available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development in its three dimensions which is our overarching goal. Then, it is urgent to incorporate the discussion of the Aichi targets in a broader context which is the one of the sustainable development.

In addition, it is important to consider explicitly that the Aichi targets should be implemented and move forward taking into consideration the distinctive nature of the environmental functions and products provided by Mother Earth in interaction with humans. This means that environmental functions that are public goods should be organized by the State, the common-pool goods through the collective action, and only the products obtained from nature through a sustainable use should be provided through the markets. Then, it is an outstanding mistake to consider that the environmental functions of nature could be provided through the markets in the context of one-size solution for all. Therefore, the Plurinational State of Bolivia considers that there is the need to improve the theoretical understanding of the biodiversity conservation in order to properly select the institutional arrangements oriented to foster the achievement of the CBD objectives. Particularly, it is important to consider institutional arrangements such as those coming from the State (the public) and the collective action, which are the foundations for the establishment of a non-market based approach.

In this context, there is an outstanding ignored issue in the conceptual framework of the strategy of resource mobilization and in the preliminary reporting framework, because these are considering only the public and private arrangements for financing the achievement of the CBD objectives and the Aichi targets. In consequence, the role of the collective action is absolutely ignored. This creates important lacunae in the assessment of the overall national efforts towards the conservation of biodiversity, and ignores the outstanding role of the indigenous and local populations in this endeavor. Therefore, the preliminary reporting framework should consider not only the valuation of how much financial resources are invested into conservation but also how much collective effort is developed in order to reach the Aichi targets. Consequently, the indicators regarding resource mobilization should be revised and complemented in order to make visible the role of collective action and the efforts of communities, indigenous people, and local populations in the conservation of biological diversity and in the sustainable use of its components. It is important to notice that in the Bolivian country the role of collective action is very prominent with respect to the conservation of biological diversity.

Bolivia is very cautious in the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol because the national legislation mandates that natural processes must not be converted on commodities and that the State must develop actions in order to avoid the marketing of genetic resources. Bolivia must not be penalized in the future by the United Nations system because of the no ratification of the Nagoya Protocol. In this direction, the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol must not be seen as one of the conditions for the access of developing countries to the United Nations funding for conservation of the biological diversity, through GEF, and other multilateral and bilateral funding. Bolivia considers that the most important issues to be analyzed for resource mobilization are institutional and political, which are related to the establishment at the national level of the necessary legal and institutional framework for the achievement of the Aichi targets.

In this direction, the Bolivian Congress has already approved the legal framework in order to achieve in this country the objectives of the CBD in the context of the Aichi targets<sup>2</sup>. Also, the Bolivian government is developing an innovative non-market based mechanism in order to reach through an integrated way the Aichi targets. This mechanism is entitled “Joint Mitigation and Adaptation Mechanism for the Integral and Sustainable Management of Forests and Mother Earth”, which is aimed to improve the role of the State and of the collective action in the conservation of the environmental functions of nature; strengthen at the local level the integral and sustainable management of ecosystems; and improve fair markets for products coming from the sustainable management of the components of nature.

This proposal was presented by the Plurinational State of Bolivia at the COP17 in Durban-South Africa and adopted as paragraph 67 of the decision 2/CP.17 supported by an important number of countries, and it has an outstanding role in the achievement of the objectives of the CBD. The “Joint Mitigation and Adaptation Mechanism” is designed to effectively advance mitigation and adaptation to climate change through the integral and sustainable management of forests, ecosystems, and systems of life of Mother Earth. The overriding priority of the Mechanism is to achieve sustainable development and eliminate poverty. In this context, actions that generate adaptation, mitigation, and biodiversity conservation co-benefits should be sought to reduce deforestation, halt the loss of biodiversity, maintain environmental functions of nature, reduce land and resource degradation, and facilitate the transition to better land use through the development of more sustainable production systems and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation of ecosystems and people.

This approach promotes the development of a fair market at the local level for products coming from an integral and sustainable management of forests and ecosystems, mainly through community-based management. Therefore, it is also important to consider in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity the development of the “CBD procurement” or the establishment of the “CBD sustainable trade system” in order to improve the commercialization of these products. This is because communities are not able to compete with private investors who have less transaction costs since they do not include the maintenance of the multiple functions of nature and social aspects into the final price of the commodity as it happens in community-based management initiatives.

Therefore, Bolivia considers that in the draft decision —regarding the implementation of a strategy for resource mobilization (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/14/Rev.1) and in the preliminary reporting framework (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/14/Add.1) — there are still ignored issues and additional elements that need to be considered. In this direction, the Plurinational State of Bolivia suggests some paragraphs for consideration of the Conference of the Parties at Hyderabad India (COP11), as follows:

1. *Recognizes* that for the implementation of the resource mobilization strategy there is the need to develop a framework about the right balance with respect to all of the elements highlighted in the article 20 of the CBD on financial resources,

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<sup>2</sup> This is the Law of Mother Earth and Integral Development for Well Living.

considering mainly the implementation of the principle of the Common But Differentiated Responsibilities. This framework should establish comprehensive criteria for the implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization and for consideration in the preliminary reporting framework, while taking into account the different realities, capabilities, priorities and sovereignty of developing country Parties.

2. *Recognizes* the need to improve the theoretical understanding regarding the most adequate institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Aichi targets, according to the distinctive nature of the environmental functions and products provided by Mother Earth. In this context, environmental functions that are public and based on common-pool arrangements must be organized through the State and the collective action. Then, it considers that non-market based approaches are able to fulfill an important role in improving the environmental functions of nature and promoting the integral and sustainable management of ecosystems.
3. *Takes into account* the need to incorporate into the conceptual framework of “The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity”, as well as in the strategy for resource mobilization, issues related to institutional analysis and development and the role of collective action, in the context of a non-market based approach. This should be aimed to achieve the objectives of the CBD and the Aichi targets considering fully the efforts of indigenous and local populations in the conservation of the biological diversity through the integral and sustainable management of ecosystems, respecting the rights of Mother Earth and without converting the environmental functions of nature on commodities.
4. *Request* to the Secretariat promote the development of a pilot study in order to explore the distinctive contribution of the non-market based approach in the achievement of the objectives of the CBD and the Aichi targets, considering as an inherent part of this approach the role of the collective action and the importance of the integral and sustainable management of nature, in the context of the full respect of the rights of Mother Earth and those of indigenous people.
5. *Stresses* the need to include the identification and assessment of collective action. In the context of a non-market based approach, as an important part of the preliminary reporting framework for resource mobilization, making visible the efforts of indigenous and local communities in the conservation of biological diversity, in the sustainable use of its components, and in the strengthening of the multiple functions of ecosystems.
6. *Request* Parties to promote the implementation of the Aichi targets as cross-cutting issues in the context of the Rio+20 work process oriented to frame the Sustainable Development Goals, in order to facilitate an integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems, supporting inter alia economic, social and human development, while facilitating ecosystem conservation and regeneration, and the sustainable use of biodiversity.

7. *Affirms* that there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve the objectives of the CBD. In this regard, it considers the valuation of biodiversity and payment of ecosystem services as only one tool available for achieving them. Also, recognizes that the Aichi targets can be fully achieved taking into account non-market based approaches.
8. *Recognizes* that the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and the implementation of policies regarding the valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in developing countries not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international funding for conservation of biological diversity if developing countries have real commitments to achieve the objectives of the CBD, which is our overarching goal, according to the approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country.
9. *Takes note* of the strategic role of the CBD in the development of a global environment conducive to the conservation of biodiversity, encouraging Parties to develop a multilateral framework and the necessary institutional arrangements in order to establish the "CBD procurement" or the "CBD sustainable trade system" oriented to strengthening integral and sustainable management of forests and ecosystems through community-based management in developing countries and.
10. *Invites* developed Parties and GEF to support with long-term public finance the innovative financial mechanisms of developing countries oriented to improve at the national level community-based initiatives for the integral and sustainable management and better governance of ecosystems, such as the "Joint Mitigation and Adaptation Mechanism for the Integral and Sustainable Management of Forests and Mother Earth", helping developing countries to achieve the Aichi targets in a more holistic manner, including the creation of better linkages between agriculture, forestry and biodiversity.