

First meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Agenda Item 4 - Cluster 3

Thank you, Chair. This statement is on behalf of FOEI, Action Aid and the ICCA Consortium.

NBSAPs need to be standardized to improve transparency and comparability and must be done promptly not to delay implementation. National Reports as well as NBSAPs need to be comparable amongst each other. They need to be the basis of evaluation if countries are fulfilling the commitments they made, if drivers of biodiversity destruction are progressively being halted, and if conservation is progressing as planned. In both, NBSAPs and National Reports, we need to ensure effective, meaningful and inclusive participation of IPLCs, women, youth and civil society organizations, especially those working on conservation and human rights issues.

Regular reviews need to be done country by country, comparing promised actions with what was really done. We are concerned that many NBSAPs appear to have a lower level of ambition than the current Strategic Plan. We recommend drawing from procedures of the UN human rights system's Universal Periodic Review.

Accountability is strictly related to a compliance mechanism as an essential component of a new GBFs that should be based on the principle of equity and CBDR. Beyond accountability for implementing the post 2020 GBF, accountability for biodiversity loss that takes into account historical and current responsibilities is essential. Proposals for a compliance committee to ensure the compliance of Parties to their obligations under the CBD should also be studied closely, as this could be established by the COP.

Reports prepared by stake and rights holders as official reference for future accountability and compliance mechanism. It will allow others to bring parties' alleged breaches or blatant and persistent non-implementation of the convention to the attention of a compliance committee which then can take measures to enforce it. Considering its complexity, it needs thorough discussion. We therefore request significant time to be allocated to this issue.

In a framework of justice and equity: countries whose natural heritage and resources are exploited by actually provide the resources for the high consumption cannot assume all the responsibility for the environmental destruction this brings with it alone.

Voluntary pledges have no place in this cluster. They must not detract from Parties' legally binding obligations to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity in their territories, and to share the benefits equitably.

Other non-state actors: Rather than asking for commitments from rights-holders and stake holders such as Indigenous peoples and local communities, their contribution should be recognized and supported, including for self-determined conservation initiatives and other collective actions and legal protection against threats such as harmful subsidies. Governments have a responsibility to hold corporations accountable, including through limiting their participation in the whole UN system and in particular in the design and influencing of the Convention and post-2020 framework.