

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

## Statement on Agenda Item 5

Thank you, Chair. This is a statement on item 5 on behalf of International University Network on Cultural and Biodiversity, Natural Justice, Friends of the Earth International, the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), World Animal Net and the ICCA Consortium.

We urge Parties to adopt a conclusion on the future work programme that embodies the overarching principles for the post-2020 process as adopted by COP decision 14/34, ensuring that it is (*inter alia*) participatory, inclusive, comprehensive, gender-responsive and transparent.

First, we are concerned about the lack of an inclusive process leading to the thematic consultations, including the selection of the current topics, and how other important topics will be addressed. Importantly, all topics should also be part of the main negotiations in the Working Group and they should be considered through more inclusive and accessible consultation processes, including online submissions and consultations. We are also concerned about how the participants for the thematic consultations are being selected and how the inclusion of diverse perspectives will be ensured.

Moreover, the latest concept notes propose that the outcome of the thematic consultations should be “Draft text of goal(s) and targets with indicators and baseline” that could be included in the Co-Chairs’ draft document for the next Working Group meeting. As it currently stands, that would limit the opportunity for engagement to a small number of selected participants.

Finally, clarification is needed on how past and future submissions will be included in the further development process, and how they will be considered in the drafting of new discussion documents.

We ask the co-chairs:

1. To provide additional opportunities for future submissions and open online reviews of discussion documents to the future work programme, and clarify how these submissions will be treated and taken into account
2. To make information on thematic consultations and the application process available in good time, and ensure balanced representation of perspectives
3. To invite Parties and stakeholders to host additional thematic consultations on topics that are required for transformative change, notably on drivers and on governance, rights, equity and justice, and the roles of indigenous peoples and local communities.
4. To broaden the thematic consultation process as per COP Decision 14/34 to include online submissions, online discussion forums and additional dialogues facilitated by rights-holders and stakeholders, while paying attention to their different needs and capacities to engage in such processes.

The future work programme should explicitly provide for these opportunities for broader participation and mandate the co-chairs and official meetings to consider their contributions and outcomes.

We further invite Parties and international organisations to increase their support to enable broad participation in the upcoming thematic consultations and OEWDGs.

Thank you, Chair.