

Item 5 Intervention

Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this debate on behalf of **the Global Biodiversity Youth Network. I am also an active member of the women's caucus of the CBD Alliance.**

We would like to emphasize the need for a socio-economic analysis of the impacts of invasive species, including in particular the impacts on women and future generations. Women have a special relationship with biodiversity, they are the guardians of biodiversity and the primary conservers of seeds. As acknowledged by the parties, invasive species can have a profound impact on their traditional use of biodiversity, including in particular farming systems. For example, due to invasive species weeding often has to be carried out 2 or 3 times more than previously, and the carrying capacity of pastures for livestock can be reduced by up to 90%, with serious impacts on food security and sovereignty. [Also, invasive species like water hyacinth threaten community water resource, while women often have the main responsibility of fetching water for their families.] For communities seeking to adapt to climate change, invasives make that adaptation even more difficult. They also have profound cultural impacts by displacing communities and generating conflicts over land not yet affected by invasives.

We are particularly concerned about the potential invasiveness of species cultivated outside their native range for bioenergy, which now includes troubling new risks posed by, micro-organisms such as algae, yeast and E-coli, manipulated using genetic engineering and synthetic biology.

For that reason it is important to perform a profound assessment of the existing and potential socio-economic impacts of invasive species, and to take preventive measures when there are significant risks. We are particularly concerned about the potential socio-economic impacts of invasive species introduced through synthetic biology, including on customary sustainable use of biodiversity.

Overall, we need a stronger text on effective monitoring, control and eradication of invasive species that goes beyond data collection and information sharing. There is a need for an ecosystem coordinated approach for the control and eradication of invasive species, incorporating legislation, governance, policy, capacity development, management and restoration with key links to health, livelihoods and well-being of indigenous peoples, local communities, women and youth.

So in closing, I would urge Parties to focus specifically on the implementation of measures that address the negative environmental and socio-economic impacts of invasive species. The costs of invasive species are simply too high to allow for these impacts to occur. We need preventive measures, based on a precautionary approach, especially in field of new and dangerous technologies like synthetic biology, where there is an urgent need for a moratorium.

Thank you.