

Delivered by Josefa Carino Tauli, indigenous youth from the Philippines on behalf of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network

Thank you Co-chairs.

We are the Global Youth Biodiversity Network and today we take you to the year 2050.

It's 2050 and we are living in a world where biodiversity is thriving. It's a world where we coexist with all life in all its forms, histories, and relationships; where we function and evolve interdependently with nature as part of one system. We live in a world where our culture is rooted in nature, and where biodiversity is a way of life understood by all and does not need to be negotiated.

Sound impossible? Today it is 2019. Now let us take you exactly 50 years back to 1969. On July 20 1969, in a moment that went down in history and inspired a whole generation, man had stepped onto the surface of the moon for the very first time. Even a few days before this historic event, nobody had even believed it was possible, but it happened!

Today, just like that day in 1969, is a historic moment. We are gathered here to discuss a new global framework for biodiversity. We have 14 months until COP15, and there is a lot resting on us doing this right.

What is often forgotten about the moon landing is that this was a feat made possible by a programme that mobilized massive amounts of resources and especially an unprecedented amount of political will that crossed political differences towards one goal. And we believe that we are all here today with our own ambitious goal, our own moon landing: and that is the goal of living in harmony with nature.

The path to this goal will not be easy. We will have to lean into the discomfort and *really* realize that we have not been doing enough. That we are part of the problem. And that if we don't *fundamentally change*, we will be passing on this world to future generations in a state worse than we found it.

And so as we are laying down the foundation for this path to 2050, we the youth call on Parties to take this on as an intergenerational task, overcoming the limitations of conventional approaches that tend to divide stakeholders by sectors and by generation. We therefore propose to develop a model of collaboration that incentivizes partnership between members of all generations - children, youth, adults and senior citizens. The Global Youth Biodiversity Network believes that Intergenerational Equity is such a concept and that it should be included in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

We also want to remind everyone here that we need a solid framework with even more solid implementation mechanisms. We urge parties not to think in terms of what is politically feasible but in terms of what is *needed*.

GYBN feels that no matter what structure is going to be adopted, we need to make sure that we don't repeat the mistakes of the past. We strongly urge parties to ensure that the ambition of the framework is being matched with enabling conditions and implementation mechanisms that are able to bring about the transformative change that we need.

We need to take bigger steps towards taking bold rights-based approaches, toward addressing inequalities, and toward empowering those on the ground, including indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other marginalized groups. And we need to make sure we don't leave it at just nice words but instead turn this framework into concrete action on the ground. Implementation, implementation and implementation is what should guide all our work here.

At this difficult time when global tensions are rising, let's make 2019 a year where we overcome our political differences and all move collectively toward the same vision. We ask this of you as your children, your grandchildren and on behalf of those generations that we may not live to see.

Thank you.

----- END -----

Time so far: 3 mins-ish

To add, if can:

- Intergenerational equity? - that it's for all generations
 - Can strengthen post 2020 by overcoming the limitations of current stakeholder engagements
- Ip youth, gender
- Comment on the non-paper

It is our view that Intergenerational Equity

- 1) Strengthening a long-term perspective in Post-2020 by providing a building block to create a clear pathway toward 2050
- 2) Strengthening accountability mechanisms in Post-2020 by introducing the dimension of Intergenerational Equity
- 3) Improving stakeholder engagement in the implementation of Post-2020 by overcoming the limitations of conventional approaches that tend to divide stakeholders by sectors and by generations
- 4) Enforcing the implementation of actions that will drive sustainable living to achieve our vision of living

Recently from all the five regional consultation process on post 2020, the parties referred about implementation strengthening by the design of SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time bound), GYBN encourages the strengthening process of implementation through a concrete action plan.

1. Therefore, GYBN would like to propose a concrete structure for the post 2020 biodiversity framework where the targets should be categorized into different sectors of biodiversity that includes forestry, agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, water resources, fisheries and also contributors of biodiversity that include finance, capacity building etc.

Each sector should follow the SMART process with concrete action plan for each target, and short term, mid term and long term timeline for every action plan and also responsible agencies or stakeholders who are responsible and contributors to achieve those action plans.

2. The regional workshops also had consensus on the importance of review and compliance mechanism for NBSAPS and improving the monitoring, reporting and verification process of CBD. To achieve this:

-UN protocol based periodical Management Effective Evaluation (MEE) process for all national governments and federal Biodiversity implementation authorities within a country needs a serious attempt.

-create an office or experts to evaluate the execution of NBSAPS by parties and then give ranking to the parties based on their performance.

-A Certificate of excellence for parties that lead implementation of post 2020 biodiversity framework.

3.GYBN also urge parties to use the post 2020 biodiversity framework to include and define the term for biodiversity into relevant stakeholders legal instruments (other laws) of the respective sovereign parties.

4.To give importance to biodiverse rich and valued regions CBD can identify them and give recognition to them as biodiversity rich heritage site under CBD.

(Need to strengthen compliance mechanisms in Post-2020

Peer review mechanisms for NBSAPs important

Implementation, implementation, implementation

Further assistance to facilitate the implementation of NBSAPs is needed

Certificate of excellence for parties that lead implementation)

Link to INTEQ Paper

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1K9u_k5XmXpCSz2N0EMrIUw4ZybFLaYEPEGN-4ekT0qg/edit

•

-
- In this context, **Intergenerational Equity has already been included in the Paris Agreement** under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), **the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** and the work currently being done on Biodiversity and Human Rights by the **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)**, among other international as well as national processes.
- Intergenerational Equity is also reflected in several national constitutions such as the constitution of Kenya, Finland, Madagascar and South Africa
- **The results of preliminary youth consultations on post 2020 carried out by GYBN have shown that Intergenerational Equity is emerging as an intrinsic element of living in harmony with nature.** For our community, there is no way to live in harmony with nature without ensuring intergenerational equity, sustainable living and the integrity of our life support system.

How could Intergenerational Equity help to strengthen the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework?

- 5) Strengthening a long-term perspective in Post-2020 by providing a building block to create a clear pathway toward 2050
- 6) Strengthening accountability mechanisms in Post-2020 by introducing the dimension of Intergenerational Equity
- 7) Improving stakeholder engagement in the implementation of Post-2020 by overcoming the limitations of conventional approaches that tend to divide stakeholders by sectors and by generations
- 8) Enforcing the implementation of actions that will drive sustainable living to achieve our vision of living in harmony with nature

It has been said multiple times that our generation will be the one facing the consequences of the decisions being taken here. Since the release of the first reports on global warming and since the rapid loss of biodiversity surpassed planetary boundaries, we have been observing how the world, that is supposed to be inherited to us, is being directed towards an ecological collapse without us being able to have a say on that.

We also see how inequalities and power asymmetries increase in the global political economy as new actors shape the global dynamics and spread a model of governance that is based on fear and repression. This system is a root cause of biodiversity loss, and a direct impact is the marginalization of vulnerable groups such as youth, women, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. These groups are key actors in the successful implementation of any biodiversity related policy.

But in the middle of this depressing scenario, we remain hopeful. Our hope relies on the young women and men that nowadays still have a strong connection with nature and live in communities that depend on fragile ecosystems. These young women and men are modern biodiversity heroes for us. They are resisting the threats of an unfair political system and are showing us the path to thrive with biodiversity.

Our generation is not only concerned about the current situation. An increasing number of youth around the world lost faith in our political leaders and decided to start taking the solutions in their hands, acting from their own local realities. This is why we don't only want to be heard, but

we want to be effectively involved in all the processes that will shape the post 2020 biodiversity agenda.

Some of our GYBN national chapters are already providing inputs to the elaboration of the position of their countries at CBD meetings and to national environmental policies. **We call on all governments to think about youth as a strategic partner for the design, implementation and reporting of the national initiatives to implement the Convention.**

To give you an idea, since May 2017, GYBN has held 5 regional youth capacity building workshops in the Global South reaching a number of 205 participants from 50 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin-America and the Caribbean. Only in the past four weeks before this COP, our team organized two workshops for Asia and Africa with a total of 102 participants.

And we already have plans for 2019: In February we will organize our second workshop for Latin-America and in summer 2019 we will finally bring this programme to the Global North with our very first workshop for Europe.

We are also hoping to organize workshops in the remaining world regions, specifically in the Caribbean, Oceania and North-America.

We call upon all governments that are in a position to do so, to work with us and to help us to bring this youth empowerment programme to all parts of the world!

Our network is growing and we are so proud to say that we have established 20 National and Regional Chapters. Here we have young people already doing projects on the ground and ready to support the national initiatives from their governments to address biodiversity issues.

As you all know, this year the CBD is celebrating its 25th anniversary. There is a lot that we got done in these past 2,5 decades and we can surely be proud of our accomplishments.

However, we are deeply concerned that the loss of Biodiversity is still progressing at an alarming rate and that we are not on track to achieve most of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. As Albert Einstein said “the approach that has created a problem cannot be used to solve it” - we need a new approach, we need to reconnect with nature and live in harmony with nature into the future.

However, we fear that short term thinking and quick technological fixes are being prioritized over addressing the real underlying drivers. Even though these false solutions won't solve the biodiversity crisis, but on the contrary, might pose new threats that are probably not foreseen.

As youth we want a future where ecosystem based approaches are prioritized over quick technological fixes to address the environmental challenges that our generation is facing. We want a future where addressing biodiversity issues is cross-sectoral thanks to an effective mainstreaming. We want a future where the precautionary principle is applied before the

implementation of new technologies and where corporates and shareholders are being held accountable for the impacts they cause on our environment, our wellbeing and our future.

Thank you Madam/Mister Chair.

----- Elements from the HLS Statement-----

We already have a long term vision for biodiversity - we want to live in harmony with nature - and we are committed to making this happen.

In a way, we think that the future is not only ahead of us. The future is behind us: We need to go back to our roots and embrace traditional ecological knowledge to create resilient socio-ecological systems.

We want a future where biodiversity conservation is inclusive, where Indigenous and community conserved areas are formally recognized and where no project is implemented without the FPIC of the IPLCs in their lands. We want a future where western science embrace traditional knowledge and Nature Based Solutions. We need an ambitious post 2020 agreement that ensures protection of biodiversity at the species, genes and ecosystems levels, especially in megadiverse countries threatened by corporations and foreign interests. We need targets that are possible to quantify so we can hold our governments accountable. We would also like to see a standalone goal on empowerment for youth, women, indigenous and local communities.

In order to enable youth to engage in achieving a long-term vision for biodiversity, the challenges that youth face today need to be prioritized.

We think that the change of values that we need in our society has to be reflected in the way we measure the progress of countries in achieving this long term vision. The change of anthropocentric to ecocentric views and values will be the only way to halt the biodiversity loss rates that the anthropocene has caused.

----- More to be added-----

Reference to where we are standing with this COP

Bridge from China to Egypt

Include number of people we reached with workshops since 2017

How much our network has grown

If you give us resources it will pay off

Points from Linnea

1.) It is often said, that we "inherit" the world from former generations. Heritage is a nice word, but in reality we can not choose to inherit - we actually can't avoid it! The world with all the problems is kind of "forced upon us".

2.) There are so many good ideas among young people. If politicians don't know what to do, they should not be afraid to ask young people...

I'm sure, you have a lot more points to make. I just thought I'd share these thoughts with you, than you can decide for yourself, how you feel about them. Sorry again for sending this so late.
Cheers, Linnea

Statement for the opening
Global Youth Biodiversity Network