



**Global Youth
Biodiversity
Network**

GYBN Closing Statement

Thank you Madam President, I am speaking on behalf of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network.

We would also like to thank you, Minister Foad, for your strong leadership throughout this meeting. In particular we would like to thank the young volunteers and all other staff who worked tirelessly every day to keep things running at this COP. As GYBN we look forward to working with you and your team throughout the next two years of your COP-presidency. You can count on us as both a critical observer but also as a reliable partner for concrete and ambitious action.

We are also excited to work with the government of China and hope to build a vibrant youth movement towards COP15.

GYBN strongly believes that young people can add valuable and innovative ideas to this process and we call upon all parties to work with us so that our voice can be heard in the process. We would like to propose to include multigenerational dialogue sessions within National and Regional Consultations for Post-2020.

Full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, woman and youth is crucial and must be ensured in the National and Regional Consultations for Post-2020, and their participation must be prioritized.

We would also like to remind parties of the importance of the principles of the Rio Declaration, especially with regards to participation and access to information, which should guide all the discussions that will frame the Post-2020 Process.

We want to remind parties of the crucial importance of having IPLCs, the guardians of biodiversity, on the negotiations table, on a respectful dialogue built on the basis of the international commitments made by all parties here with regards to human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We also want to highlight that Free Prior and Informed Consent is not only a fundamental principle but also a requirement to fulfill the 3 objectives of the Convention.

During this meeting, we sometimes felt as if we had already given up on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and as if all efforts are now focussed on Post-2020. Yes, we are not on track to achieve our targets. Yes, we are on the brink of failure – but does this mean we should give up and just fast forward to 2020? Does this mean we should just sign our collective declaration of surrender?

There is still a lot that can be achieved in 2 years if there is ambition and will. In this context, we congratulate parties on the adoption of the Decision L2 which also focuses on options to accelerate progress. We strongly support the measures contained in the decision and urge parties to give maximum priority to their implementation.

Distinguished delegates, eight years ago, we all came together in Nagoya to adopt the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Then CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif shared the following remarks: *“History will recall that it was here in Nagoya that a new era of living in harmony with nature was born and new global alliance to protect life on earth was established.”*

What has happened in the past eight years? Where is all the enthusiasm and political momentum from Nagoya gone? Where is this “Global Alliance to protect life on Earth”?

Let us revive this spirit and let us all work together to make sure that we use the next two years to learn from our past mistakes and build a strong foundation for a successful COP15 and a strong and implementable Post-2020 agreement in Beijing. We owe this to ourselves, our children and to future generations.

We stand ready to work with all of you. Let’s do this together!

-----END OF TEXT-----