



**Global Youth
Biodiversity
Network**

Thank you Mister Chair.

I am speaking on behalf of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network.

While technological development and research holds many potential opportunities that can advance human well being, it cannot be done at the cost of impacting lives and livelihoods of people who are guardians of the biological resources.

All of us, but especially academia, research sector and the industries, should understand that when conducting their activities, **even when it is just storing information in gene banks, they are utilizing and benefiting** not only from the organism and its genetic material, but also from the wisdom of traditional knowledge, and all the conservation efforts done by indigenous peoples and local communities **to maintain the integrity of biodiversity with its genetic diversity in their territories**. Therefore **they are obliged to utilize Digital Sequence Information under an Access and Benefit Sharing regime**.

If this is not ensured, we strongly believe that there will be an unacceptable gap with regard to the 3rd objective of the convention on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, with a **loophole for biopiracy which will undermine the Convention**.

The boundaries between business activities and research may not be always clear. Therefore, we strongly believe that any **commercial utilization of Digital Sequence Information must be regulated in a way that does not undermine the principle of Access- and Benefit-sharing that was agreed by all parties under this Convention**.

Both, young people from biodiversity-rich developing countries and technologically advanced developed countries, believe that access to genetic sequence information should be subject to mandatory benefit sharing with **Free, Prior, Informed Consent** of communities and nations.

We don't want our governments and organizations to condone with biopiracy. Therefore we urge parties to act quickly and in a coherent manner, to respect all the objectives of the convention, which all of you have signed for.

Thank you.