



Addressing Impacts of Marine Debris and Anthropogenic Underwater Noise on Marine and Biodiversity

Montreal, Canada, 26th April 2016

Thank you Mister Chair.

I am speaking on behalf of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network and we would like to provide our views on agenda item 4.3.

According to UNESCO, 60% of the world's major marine ecosystems that underpin livelihoods have been degraded or are being used unsustainably. GYBN is extremely concerned with the rapidly increasing amount of marine debris that threatens marine biodiversity and its habitats.

The world's consumption and production patterns are unsustainable and go far beyond the capacity of ecosystems to regenerate. We have no time to lose, when it comes to fundamental structural economic transformations, to reduce plastic usage and to promote sustainable consumption patterns globally.

Therefore, we welcome the report of the Expert workshop to prepare practical guidance on preventing and mitigating the adverse impacts of marine debris.

We would like to support the statement made by our colleagues from the IIFB and urge parties to ensure full and effective participation of indigenous people and local communities in relevant workshops and other meetings under the CBD.

We also welcome the promotion of research on the potential trophic transfer, of marine micro-debris in food webs. This research will be essential to determine to what extent the **bioaccumulation effect** is for plastics.

We are particularly worried about the threat of microplastics, as their long term consequences to human health are still not clear. We believe that there is a need for further research concerning plastics risks and consequences to ecosystems and human health.

Thus, we urge parties to promote research and follow the recommendations of the aforementioned report. We also urge parties to foster synergies with the health sector in order to further understand its consequences to human health and combine efforts to effectively address it.

Finally, we call upon parties to uphold the polluter pays principle. Liability and compensation measures must be **enforced** when producers cause damage or when there is sufficient likelihood of damage / to marine / and coastal / biodiversity.

Thank you Mister Chair.