

## **CLOSING STATEMENT:**

Thank you Co-chairs. I speak on behalf of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network.

We thank everyone for the support we have received during this week--from the dialogue that we hosted on Intergenerational Equity, to interventions made by parties to support the key role that youth play in achieving the objectives of the Convention and to those who have expressed their support for us and our work personally. We also appreciate all your hard work to come out of these negotiations with strong outcomes toward a long-term vision of living in harmony with nature.

Many young people recognize the depth of the problem of the biodiversity crisis and the urgency to act. This is evident by many youth-led initiatives that seek to address the indirect and direct drivers of biodiversity loss. We as the Global Youth Biodiversity Network are witnesses and evidence to the great things that young people can achieve, as we continue to see this in the work of our members from many walks of life from all over the world.

We remind all actors of the need to invest in building capacity to ensure the full and effective engagement of youth, IPLCs, Women and other marginalized groups in this process by promoting education, financial access, awareness, and skills development among them. Moving forward in this process, we also urge you to engage youth in your respective national consultations and international meetings, institutionalize youth participation, as well as support youth-led and youth-targeted initiatives.

Again, we are happy to reach out to our community in your countries should you need to contact young people actively working with biodiversity on the ground for your consultations. We also commit to doing our part to facilitate dialogues and consultations with diverse youth communities including young women and girls, indigenous youth and other intersections of marginalized groups. We will let our positions be known to our focal points through intergenerational dialogues as broadly as our resources and capacity will allow.

We will love to share a quote from Nelson Rholihlahla Mandela, that reads "It always seems impossible until its done". We end by saying, the strength of this community is in our collective drive to keep biodiversity beating.

Thank you and we wish you safe travels. \*\*\*

Lastly, we are here to remind you that achieving the change we need means we have to be comfortable with being uncomfortable. We said this at the Trondheim Conferences and we will say it again today: We have homework for you: get out of your comfort zone!

**To Governments:** Let's go out and connect to marginalized groups! They are facing the worst of the system and can help you see the gaps.

**To businesses:** Let's check the hidden impacts of our business and our real efforts! How big is the impact? How great and how real are your efforts? How much of it is greenwashing?

**To academia:** Let's make an effort to truly collaborate with indigenous peoples and local communities! IPLCs know so much that we don't, and taking time to learn from even just *one* person means you have a library of knowledge passed down through generations.

**To NGOs:** Let's question ourselves! How much our work is actually driving the change we need, and how much is stuck in the system we're trying to change?

**To Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities:** Let's talk to our youth! We value your wisdom and want to learn. And in these times of rapid change, we have things to teach you as well but only if you allow us to innovate while trusting us to keep the values you have instilled in us.

**To women:** Let's remain as a team! We are diverse and unique as people, but we are *women*, and the system is often not in our favor. Let's continue to work for gender justice and recognize that it has everything to do with what we are discussing here.

**To fellow youth:** Let's take initiative! Youth-led projects are extremely valuable to achieving our goals here.

**And to our challenge to all of us here:** Let's keep in mind the future generations! It's easy to lose sight of the repercussions of the decisions that we make here and now, but the strength of this community is in our collective drive to keep biodiversity beating.

This is our homework for you. We will follow up on your progress the next time we meet. :)

Thank you very much and have a safe journey home.

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If no progress - we can all go home

**{let's decide whether to mention these here or submit in writing, either is fine with me}**

**(need to sift through these to see what has been reflected and what has not, and decide whether we want to restate them in the closing statement)**

**Some points from our interventions this week:**

1. We believe that we need strong commitment to truly reflect and apply the values and principles needed to underpin these, however, they are still not clearly reflected in the current proposal. Specifically believe intergenerational equity is an important principle → **Principles are in the paper; no “values” but there is “transformative change”**
2. We feel that we need to perhaps reconsider whether ten years is an adequate timeframe → **do we continue to push for this?**
3. Several parties only relatively recently completed their NBSAPs based on the structure of the current Strategic Plan. We are concerned that fundamentally changing this structure will redirect resources that *could* be going into implementation to instead reforming NBSAPs so that they conform to the new structure. Hence, we are in favor of working to improve the current structure on which the NBSAPs are already based. → **do we continue to push for this?**
4. Under enabling conditions - (1) Effective governance, laws and institutions; (2) The full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, and stakeholders including women, youth and children in all stages of national policy design and implementation (3) The production, access and management of knowledge and technology from diverse knowledge systems in a fair and equitable way, (4) Biodiversity Literacy and Education. → **First 3 are reflected, fourth point is not**
5. We welcome voluntary commitments, on the basis that if they are made by parties, they do not undermine NBSAPs, but are in addition to commitments already made in the NBSAPs. → reflected in non-paper “4 Some Parties felt that voluntary commitments would be better reflected under the element of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework related to means of implementation and enabling conditions. Other Parties indicated that they were unclear as to what this term meant. Others noted that clear guidance for voluntary commitments would be needed. Some Parties also expressed the view that voluntary commitments were for non-State actors while others felt that they could be relevant to national Governments as a complement to the commitments in the national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Others felt that national voluntary commitments could undermine the national biodiversity strategies and action plans.” **do we need to remention?**
6. Stress that all objectives of the convention must be equally reflected in Post2020 → in discussion group, there were suggestions that goals can be based on these 3, and this is reflected in the paper i believe

Points:

- That the structure is not the reason we failed, but the implementation
- True inclusion

- Importance of commitments
- Benefits - nature is not just a commodity or for profit
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[FINAL INPUTS ON SCOPE AND STRUCTURE SO THAT THEY ARE ON RECORD, maybe we want to reiterate the things we suggested in interventions that are not in the co-chairs text, taking into account what has been discussed in the discussion groups]

**Please refer to the non-paper:**

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/6f62/5c58/b51c8ebb49511787cc3e972d/wg2020-01-nonpaper-02-en.pdf>

[Sefa suggestions] Under section 8 - cross-cutting issues and approaches, we are happy about the mention of Intergenerational Equity here. We however would like for youth to still be added as a separate item under this list, different from Intergenerational Equity. It was not our intention for the concept to be replacement of youth but rather an addition to it, as the term “youth” does not fully capture the need to take into account the needs of future generations and older generations. And so again, we would still like for youth to be explicitly mentioned here.

## YOUTH CHALLENGE: GETTING OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE



### GOVERNMENTS

Let's go out, connect with marginalized groups! They are facing the worst of the system and can help you see the gaps



### BUSINESS

Let's check the hidden impacts of your business and your real efforts. How big is the impact? How great is your efforts? How much is greenwashing?



### ACADEMIA

Let's make an effort to truly collaborate with IPLCs and consider traditional knowledge



### NGOS

Question yourself: How much of our work is ultimately keeping the establishment?

TRACKING PLENARY (Sorry to put this here)

Argentina: 5 direct drivers, plus 2 other objectives of the convention

Eswatini - need other 2 objectives