



GYBN Intervention on Biofuels

Pyeongchang, South Korea, October 14 2014

Thank you Madam/Mister Chair for the opportunity to share our position. I am speaking on behalf of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network.

GYBN is very concerned about the negative impacts on conventional agriculture, such as monocropping and GMO, has on both the environment and human health, and thus the risks they entail for the well-being of future generations.

We are aware of the importance of biofuels for food and energy sovereignty, and we are concerned with the limited attention this issue has been given. It deeply concerns us that implementation of parties' previous decisions on biofuels has been slow. We believe that scientific consensus is still needed in order for us to affirm the effectiveness of biofuels and their impact on biodiversity. GYBN requests the parties to take a much stronger position, especially addressing harmful subsidies in accordance with Aichi Target 3.

GYBN is aware of the high importance of energy sovereignty and calls upon parties to promote truly sustainable renewable energies instead.

There are currently 30 million hectares of land worldwide cultivated with soy, palm oil, and sugar cane, amounting for 2% of global transportation fuels. By 2050, it is expected that there will be 100 millions hectares.

Large scale monocropping goes along with a further loss of biodiversity, as it means land use change especially through deforestation, and it also disrupt the livelihoods of indigenous and local communities.

Furthermore, GYBN is aware of the food versus fuel debate. We advocate for everyone's right to food and fresh water. This right has first priority, until there is a real sustainable alternative to today's biofuels.

GYBN would like to emphasize the need for more research on the second generation of biofuels, generated from wastes. But only under one condition: without the use of synthetic biology.

We believe there will be a biodiversity-friendly way to secure both: Food and fuel. Youth urge you not to flush our future in the tank of automobiles. Thank you Madam/Mister Chair.