

Synthetic Biology - SBSTTA 18 - 25/Jun/2014

*Global Youth Biodiversity Network*

Thank you Mr. Chair for this opportunity to share our position.

The Global Youth Biodiversity Network, would like to express extreme concern regarding the risks presented by Synthetic biology and its products.

We believe that our current scientific community still does not detain the necessary knowledge and understanding of our environment, its organisms and how they interact with each other under evolutionary pressures. Without this knowledge, it is impossible to fully understand, predict and control the consequences of synthetically modified and produced organisms and products, once they are released on the environment.

The use of this technology without any national and international regulatory mechanisms constitutes a great risk for livelihoods in developing countries, and especially for the wellbeing of your children, grandchildren and all the children that are yet to come.

Therefore we support the interventions by civil society and the majority of parties like Costa Rica, Austria, that thankfully, stressed the importance and the necessity of using the precautionary principle in their recommendations.

For those who are poorer and more vulnerable will have to face the consequences and before lives and livelihoods are taken, we strongly plead parties to take precautionary approach as an overarching principles in their decision regarding synthetic biology, and we would like to propose the addition of the following text in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/10, in the session:

Recommendation to the Conference of the Parties

item 1(a), (...) after justify such testing, "taking into account the precautionary principle of the convention in decisions at all levels."