



Informal Dialogue Session, Panel 1: “Mainstreaming biodiversity in the sustainable development goals: the road ahead”

Global Youth Biodiversity Network Intervention

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

The Global Youth Biodiversity Network welcomes the efforts of the international community and the work of the OWG in recognizing the importance of biodiversity in achieving the vision of a sustainable world and the future we *really* want.

However, we express our concerns that the document “Introduction and Proposed Goals and Targets on Sustainable Development for the Post-2015 Development Agenda (Zero Draft)” presented by the Co-chairs of the open working group on the SDGs does not fully reflect the importance of biodiversity in enabling and limiting all essential human and non-human activities on the planet. Biodiversity represents all of the richness and diversity on earth and therefore should be regarded as an indispensable element in the fight against poverty and inequality.

We welcome that target 15 in the Zero Draft refers directly to the halt of the loss of Biodiversity. However, we strongly urge parties to further integrate Biodiversity into the remaining targets as well, especially into target 4 on education, stressing the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity awareness into formal and informal curricula.

Biodiversity holds many advantages for society and is the foundation for many sectors of the economy, Mainstreaming Biodiversity into all SDGs is therefore the key to their success.

The Global Youth Biodiversity Network urges parties to prioritize the improvement and redesign of governance structures and institutions through transformative, inclusive and daring approaches to tackle power imbalance, environmental and social justice, human rights and perverse incentives, rather than allocating efforts and major funds solely on improving technology and scientific capacity. In order to achieve sustainability, scientific development should be equally followed by ethical development, awareness raising and education.

Therefore, we welcome the establishment of quality education for all as a stand alone goal, and we further recommend that education be mainstreamed in all other sustainable development goals.

To ensure the achievement of the SDGs, we urge parties to ensure **full and effective participation** of all stakeholders including the frequently marginalized groups: children, youth, women, and indigenous and local communities. Their contribution is essential and should be supported during all phases of the process, from design to implementation.

In order to achieve the mission of the Strategic Plan to halt the loss of Biodiversity by 2020, we urge parties and the secretariat to further integrate the **Aichi Biodiversity Targets into the SDG process**, ensuring that they are mutually supportive and complement each other. All human prosperity depends on functioning ecosystem services, therefore **mainstreaming biodiversity into all SDGs is absolutely**



essential and the CBD community should **ensure** that this is fully taken into account by the OWG during the whole process of establishing SDGs, **keeping the pressure in the negotiations.**

We are **here together with half of the world's population**, to **stand for the right of future generations** to live in harmony with the planet and with each other. We urge parties to acknowledge the planetary boundaries and to **fully recognize that human activities should operate according to its limitations in order to maintain the planet's existing potential to be resilient and ensure that future generations** have their chance to thrive.

Finally, we urge parties to have the **courage** to think **outside of the box**, to be **innovative**, and to **dare to** change current institutions and systems in order to fully address sustainability and **safeguard our capacity** to keep living on the planet for centuries to come.
