

Letter re: informal group to review the Post-2020 GBF text from Nairobi

To: the Co-Chairs of the OEWG and to the Bureau of the CBD
CC Elizabeth Maruma Mrema

19th September 2022

Dear Madam, Sir,

We, the undersigned members of the CBD Alliance, are deeply concerned with the establishment of the informal group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, to review the text from the Nairobi meeting in order to ‘facilitate the work of the fifth meeting of the Working Group (WG2020-5)’.

While we are aware that the current draft is long and messy, we firmly believe that the process should be entirely party driven, in accordance with Decision 14/34. We are concerned that a process by a selected group of Parties will not be a sufficiently inclusive, transparent, and country-driven process, and we are aware of at least one Party raising concerns in this respect¹. The announcement that the process will be “technical” doesn’t comfort us either, as what some consider technical, for others can be highly political. We are particularly concerned that this ‘review’ for ‘coherence, redundancies, consistency, and ease of communication’ could actually result in the removal of key text proposals that may currently be in brackets.

We are also concerned about possible negative consequences arising from the fact that this is not a formal negotiation and therefore Parties do not have to ‘represent the position of their country or region.’ This could lead to problematic pressure on individual participants to modify their positions.

The fact that so much text is in brackets at present reflects the profound divisions that exist between Parties, regions, approaches and interests. These divisions in turn reflect the multiple crises the world currently faces and the major differences that exist over how to address them. Unfortunately, they also reflect the increasing pressures being exerted on the CBD by for example business interests.

The CBD needs to show leadership regarding the biodiversity crisis and the divisions we refer to cannot actually be addressed or resolved by trying to ‘review’ the draft text in this manner.

We do not believe that this informal meeting, in the manner in which it is currently being organised, is in compliance with decision 14/34, which established that the development of the post-2020 GBF should be participatory, inclusive and transparent. However, in the event that it does take place, we urge you to ensure that representatives of rights holders and stakeholders, including IPLCs, Women, Youth and NGOs would be able to participate, and that all those involved in the post-2020 process can follow online.

We further take the opportunity to remind you that many proposals within the GBF draft currently risk undermining the texts and previous decisions of the CBD, as well as being regressive to the Aichi targets, and this must not be allowed to happen.

¹ https://www.vicpresidencia.gob.bo/IMG/pdf/open_letter_to_the_governments_and_peoples_of_the_world.pdf

The desire to complete the process and hold COP15 in December must not be allowed to undermine the CBD or risk a GBF that is simply inadequate to our needs at this time.

Sincerely yours,

African Civil Society Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA)
Global Forest Coalition
Third World Network
Association For Promotion Sustainable Development
Fundación Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN)
AbibiNsroma Foundation
Centre for Climate Change and Environmental Studies (C4CCES)
Kissama Foundation (FK)
Association Globale pour l'Environnement et le Climat (AGEC)
The Development Institute
Build Peace and Development (BPD)
EMERGENCE ONGD RDC
Benin Environment and Education Society (BEES NGO)
Biodiversity Hub International
Somali Greenpeace Association
Kikandwa Green Environment
MKAAJI MPYA asbl
Community Leaders Network of Southern Africa (CLN)
Coastal and Marine Resource Development (COMRED)
Vigilance OGM (Québec, Canada)
Herbal Traditional Medicine Rwanda (HTMR)
POLLINIS
East African Wild Life Society
World Federation for Animals
Edikanman Foundation
CoopeSoliDar R.L
COECOCEIBA - Friends of the Earth Costa Rica
Quaker Earthcare Witness
CENSAT - Colombia
Center for Environmental Justice (CEJ) Sri Lanka
EcoNexus
SOBREVIVENCIA, Amigos de la Tierra Paraguay
Every Woman Hope Centre
Sahabat Alam Malaysia - Friends of the Earth Malaysia
Friends of the Siberian Forests, Russia.
Ecoropa
Amis de l'Afrique Francophone- Bénin (AMAF-BENIN)
ICCA Consortium
Kumasi Institute of Tropical Agriculture (KITA)
Adivasi ry
New Wind Association

Members of the CBD Alliance