

## Statement by Third World Network

### *Informal Session in Preparation for the Third Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation 8–14 March 2021*

#### Agenda Item 9: Options to enhance planning, reporting, and review mechanisms with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention

Thank you, Chair.

1. Agenda item 9 is on options to enhance planning, reporting and review mechanisms with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Convention. Enhancing these mechanisms is important in order for ALL obligations under the Convention to be implemented, not just the post-2020 GBF goals and targets. Any disproportionate focus on the post-2020 GBF risks an unbalanced implementation of the Convention.
2. Parties to the Convention have legal obligations to implement it. Other actions by Parties, and voluntary so-called “commitments” by other stakeholders are welcome in principle, but are not part of the legal obligations of state Parties. We must not obfuscate or diminish the legally-binding obligations of Parties.
3. Further legal scrutiny is needed on the so-called “national commitments” related to the post-2020 GBF. Parties have existing legally-binding obligations to implement the Convention, and NBSAPs and national reports are the main tools for planning, reporting and review of Parties’ implementation of the Convention.
4. The mandate from OEWG 2 for SBI 3 is to “provide elements to the development of the post-2020 GBF, in particular with regard to means to support and review implementation, including implementation support mechanisms, enabling conditions, responsibility and transparency and outreach and awareness”. The proposal and so-called “options” in Section IV of Document CBD/SBI/3/11 are however extremely prescriptive and well developed as a package. The proposal entails the setting up of an elaborate system and would need further careful consideration by Parties.
5. The proposed SBI 3 recommendation “requests the Executive Secretary to further develop the modalities and operations of the multidimensional reporting and review approach” in 7 areas. The development of strengthened implementation mechanisms is very important and this must be a Party-driven process.
6. The enhancement of planning, reporting and review mechanisms is an important means to ensure implementation of the Convention. It should not become an end in itself. There are other important means of implementation, such as legally binding obligations for financial resources under Article 20.
7. The current updated zero draft of the post-2020 GBF does not yet equitably address the root causes of the biodiversity crisis in its goals and targets. These root causes often lie in the rich industrialised world - for example, unsustainable consumption in developed countries that drives natural resource extraction in developing countries, where most of the world’s biodiversity is located.

8. If root causes are not addressed in an equitable manner, an enhanced implementation mechanism may further entrench inequity, as well as place an onerous burden of planning, reporting and review on poorer countries. Equitable burden sharing is needed to unlock the ambition and the enhanced implementation that we all want.

Thank you.