



# CBD Alliance Closing Statement - COP 14 Egypt, 2018



Madame President

We thank the Egyptian people for all their hard work and kind welcome and look forward to their leadership towards COP 15. We also warmly thank the CBD Secretariat for their dedication and commitment.

On conflict of interest. We are glad to see good progress so far on developing a policy. We think this should also be extended to consultants working with the CBD.

On Digital Sequence Information. We are pleased that this important work will proceed in an open ended working group but are dismayed by the unacceptable refusal of Europe and many other developed countries to fulfill their benefit sharing obligations under the Convention and Nagoya Protocol.

On gene drives: we are pleased that this body has recognised the high risks of the new Exterminator Technology, and has effectively increased the precautionary measures around it, including the establishment of an AHTEG to analyze its risks. It is particularly important that recognition was given to the potential impact on indigenous peoples and local communities, and that they will need to be consulted.

The dangers posed by this novel technology - including that a single release of certain gene drives can have trans-boundary and even global impacts- merits that the next CBD COP establish a full moratorium, to prevent the extermination of species and the cascade of impacts it would have on biodiversity.

Regarding the Aichi Targets, we are concerned that they have not been sufficiently addressed by this COP, when we still have 2 years for their effective implementation and achievement.

On mainstreaming: In order to prevent further destruction of biodiversity and breaching of planetary boundaries, it is now urgent to avoid major new projects in the energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing sectors overall in biodiversity sensitive areas.



We have noticed some worrying trends in the way that discussions are managed. We stress that we want a CBD process to be as clear, open and participatory as possible, fully respecting rules of procedure.

Finally, the post 2020 Framework shall:

First. Be based on consultations that clearly include the effective and meaningful participation of NGOs, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and rights holders. Our work does not favor private interests but rather looks after the public good.

Second. Fully recognize The Rio Declaration 1992 and its principles, in particular the prevention and precautionary principle, as well as principle 10 on access rights in environmental matters.

Third. Enshrine a rights-based approach. It is urgent to protect those individuals who work fiercely every day, often risking their lives, to defend the environment and human rights of themselves and their communities.

Fourth. Set up a plan to stop the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss and degradation, particularly agribusiness, mining, energy, production and manufacturing.

Fifth: Take concrete actions to shift away from our current development system of overconsumption as the real transformative change.

Sixth: Apply the non regression principle to the whole CBD process, building on the Aichi Targets as a minimum standard.

Thank you Madame President

Source: <https://www.cop14-egypt.com> (direct cited)