

To :

- Mme Astrid Schomaker
Executive Secretary CBD
- All CBD Focal points

Cali, 21st October 2024

Dear Mme Schomaker,
Dear focal points,

**Subject: The CBD's Role in Securing Multilateral Regulation for
Biodiversity: doing better than past Mainstreaming Processes**

We, the undersigned organizations, are deeply concerned about the driving forces behind biodiversity loss and human rights violations, especially regarding corporations that operate in sectors such as food and agriculture, forestry, mining, energy, infrastructure, and finance, amongst others. We believe it is essential that the UN multilateral system, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in particular, address those negative social and environmental impacts by defining stringent and enforceable regulations for all sectors. This must ensure that no business is allowed to have damaging impacts on nature and people anywhere and that the combined impacts of all business cease to exceed planetary boundaries.

We note that many countries—particularly those most impacted by biodiversity loss in the Global South—are unable to enforce stringent environmental regulations due to economic dependencies, including debt-related pressures. Such situations can lead to a race to the bottom in environmental regulation, which will further destroy biodiversity and have severe social impacts everywhere. We believe the CBD should take the lead in ensuring that all countries adopt stringent policies.

We had high hopes for the mainstreaming processes to address the impacts of all sectors on biodiversity. However, we have observed, in the mainstreaming decisions of COP 13 and 14, as well as in the mainstreaming process, which proposed the Long-Term Strategic Approach to Mainstreaming (LTAM) and its Action Plan (AP), that these documents did not result in evidence- and science-based proposals for regulations that can be enforced in all countries. On the contrary, the documents, especially the LTAM and its AP, contained many proposals that would further undermine the environment and people's rights, and allow corporations to continue unchecked growth and environmental degradation. This included false solutions such as Nature-based Solutions, Nature

Positive, Biodiversity Offsetting, TNFD, Voluntary Certification, No Net Loss and Net Gain, multi-stakeholder platforms, and others.

This was the result of an unbalanced and untransparent process, which allowed for the input of corporate actors, without Parties ever discussing the content of the resulting papers in plenary, and with little involvement from rightsholders or civil society in the whole process.

We believe “mainstreaming biodiversity in all sectors” should always have meant multilateral coordination towards strong environmental regulation, but never has. We, therefore, call for the CBD to set up a new process at COP 16, with the meaningful engagement of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth, other rightsholders and civil society, to develop global policies that ensure all countries apply robust regulations to prevent further biodiversity destruction in a multilaterally coordinated way. The objective and suggested name of this process would be **“ensuring coherent multilateral regulation to protect biodiversity”**.

Sincerely yours,

International organisations

- Econexus
- Greenpeace
- Friends of the Earth International
- Global Youth Biodiversity Network
- Third World Network
- Women4Biodiversity

National Organisations

- Association For Promotion Sustainable Development - France
- Awinakola Foundation - Canada
- Friends of the Earth Canada
- JA!Justica Ambiental - Mozambique
- Milieudefensie - The Netherlands
- POLLINIS - France
- ProNatura - Switzerland
- Rainforest Action Network - US