



CBD Alliance
SBI 3 online sessions, March 2021

Agenda Item 7. Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management, and communication

Madam / Mr chair, this statement is on behalf of the CBD Alliance, which gathers a diverse range of views and proposals from civil society.

While we welcome the impetus to strengthen technical and scientific co-operation, the CBD Alliance must emphasize our deep concern that the draft decisions before us appear heavily skewed towards facilitating private sector interests and speculative market-making (such as incubators and match-making proposals). At the same time, they fail to meet key goals identified by Parties, in particular provisions for horizon scanning, technology assessment, and monitoring of the impacts of technological developments.

In the document accompanying this item, elaborated by instruction of CBD SBSTTA 23, carried including consultations with parties and stakeholders, (CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.2) it is clearly emphasized that the goals of activity in this area should include “To enable technology horizon scanning, assessment, monitoring, and judgement on the appropriate technologies;” as well as to ensure “prior informed consent of indigenous people and local communities”.

Another goal is to ensure that any development, scaling up or implementation of emerging technologies, such as new biotechnologies, artificial intelligence,

use of big data and blockchains must be “based on a precautionary approach, and in line with the objectives of the Convention”

The document also stresses that better technology governance means that technical and scientific co-operation actions need to be first evaluated to ensure they are in line with the aims of the CBD, the rights-based approach (including FPIC), and the precautionary approach.

The draft decisions before us ignores these conclusions.

They lack reference to technology horizon scanning, technology assessment and monitoring, the need to put technical co-operation in the context of precaution, participation, free prior informed consent, liability and redress, and the rights-based approach.

The decisions need to integrate also the recognition and promotion of indigenous knowledge and technologies, including in particular Indigenous women’s knowledge, as well as the mandate to pursue synergies and collaboration with networks who carry out technology horizon scanning and technology assessment, as well as UN processes supporting indigenous knowledge and socially responsible innovation.

The historical and present contribution of the local communities, peasant and indigenous knowledge, specially women, to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including agricultural diversity and the food systems that feed the majority of the world population are fundamental, and are key to affirm socially and environmentally appropriate answers to climate, biodiversity and food crises.

We strongly request that these elements be integrated into the mandate and reflected in the composition of the Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation.

We also request that the role of carrying out and supporting Technology Horizon Scanning, Assessment and Monitoring, particularly of emerging technologies, be added to the core functions of the Global Support Centre and the regional support centres.

We invite parties to support this request

Thank you

