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OHCHR Statement to CBD SBSTTA-24, SBI-3, WG2020-3



Statement by Benjamin Schachter

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Thank you. The Office of the United Nations Human Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) wishes to highlight the importance of a human rights-based approach to biodiversity action. This is a matter of legal obligation, of policy coherence, and of effectiveness.

Since this body last met, the Human Right Council adopted resolution 48/13 which recognizes a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right for all.

In negotiations of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and related matters such as the monitoring framework and gender plan of action, OHCHR urges you to consider that States have obligations under international human rights law to address and prevent biodiversity loss.

This is because biodiversity is necessary for full enjoyment of a wide range of human rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water, culture and a healthy environment.

Human rights and the rights-based approach, currently referenced in the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, should be mainstreamed throughout the framework.

OHCHR urges States to include a specific commitment to implementing actions under the framework in a manner consistent with their obligations under international human rights law in paragraph 12.

We emphasize the importance of ensuring full respect for and the free prior informed consent of the rights of indigenous peoples in the implementation of measures to achieve the objectives of the Convention.

We call upon the framework to ensure the accountability of businesses for their responsibilities under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights; the protection of environmental human rights defenders; and participation, access to information and access to justice in environmental matters.

Positive human rights and conservation outcomes are not possible without the full and equal participation of all people including women, children, indigenous peoples, local communities and persons in vulnerable situations.

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As you negotiate here in the home of the Human Rights Council, we urge you to recall that human rights law offers a roadmap for ensuring inclusive biodiversity action and realization of the framework's vision of humanity living in harmony with nature. Thank you.

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