



STATEMENT FOR CBD SBSTTA AGENDA ITEM ON BIODIVERSITY AND HEALTH

Madam Co-Chairs,

The draft Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health should support mainstreaming biodiversity and health linkages in national policies, strategies, programmes and accounts.

Several action areas under the draft global plan of action may have significant implications for ongoing discussions in the World Health Organization (WHO). Any instrument or mechanism to be developed in the WHO in relation to access and utilization of pathogen samples and digital sequence information should be consistent with the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol's objective of fair and equitable benefit sharing on an equal footing.

The South Centre suggests the following amendments to the draft Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health to ensure consistency with the objectives of the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol with regard to fair and equitable benefit-sharing:

- in activity 2.3.1 *ter* specific language should be introduced to require consistency with the objectives of the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol. Moreover, the words “where appropriate” should be deleted from the current draft. In its present formulation the activity provides discretion to the implementing authorities to disregard need for consistency with CBD and Nagoya Protocol as well as compliance with any ABS obligation within the health sector in cases or situations they deem appropriate. The revised activity 2.3.1 *ter* could read as follows

2.3.1.ter Support the implementation of access and benefit sharing measures, ~~where appropriate,~~ within the health sector to promote compliance with international and national obligations **consistent with the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol**;

Second, activity 2.4.5 *bis* places timely or rapid access to genetic resources in the context of health on a higher footing than benefit-sharing. This activity should be revised to place rapid access on an equal footing with prompt fair and equitable benefit-sharing consistent with the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol.

2.4.5.bis Promote compliance across economic sectors with international agreements and national provisions on access and benefit sharing **consistent with the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol**, to ensure timely access and ~~increase~~ **fair and equitable benefit-sharing** ~~arising from health-related economic activities~~ **on an equal footing**.

Third, the statement on supporting objective in regard to element 4 on surveillance and monitoring to address health threats should be revised to ensure that rapid international sharing of information, data and samples is on an equal footing with sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.

Element 4. Supporting objective

To strengthen planning, surveillance and mitigation efforts to address health threats, including the risk of foodborne diseases, plant and animal diseases, neglected tropical diseases, emerging infectious

diseases, vector-borne diseases and zoonotic pathogen spillover, outbreaks, epidemics, and pandemics of zoonotic origin, through One Health approaches among other holistic approaches, and the rapid international sharing of information, data, samples ***and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization on an equal footing.***

Fourth, in activity 4.1.5 and activity 4.1.6 specifically the reference to timely, open and secure sharing of data including pathogens, specimens, sequence information and relevant meta data which are essential for the rapid development of medical biotechnology, diagnostic assays, therapeutic interventions, vaccine development and prophylactic measures should be balanced with language requiring consistency with the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol.

4.1.5. Promote prompt and clear, timely, and publicly accessible information sharing and systematic collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of data on health ***and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization on an equal footing;***

4.1.6. Enable the timely, open and secure sharing of pathogens, specimens, sequence information and relevant meta data which are essential for the rapid development of medical biotechnology, diagnostic assays, therapeutic interventions, vaccine development and prophylactic measures ***and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization on an equal footing***

Thank you.