



International Planning Committee (IPC) for Food Sovereignty

Working Group on Agricultural Biodiversity



18th February 2021

International Planning Committee (IPC) for Food Sovereignty

Informal session of the Twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-24)

IPC Declaration

Item 3, the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

The International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) is an articulated space representing 6000 grassroots organizations and social movements of Indigenous Peoples and small-scale food producers.

Indigenous peoples and small scale food producers have protected, developed and strengthened the biodiversity on which we all depend for thousands of years; the recognition and protection of their role is enshrined in the UNDRIP¹ and the UNDROP².

Ensuring certain and stable tenure rights to small-scale food producers and Indigenous peoples, protecting them from the negative consequences of biotechnology through a reaffirmation of the precautionary principle, and putting in place participatory monitoring mechanisms in which all interested actors have the right to report, are measures that the Framework must provide for.

In this context, we would like to remind delegates that agroecology is based on our rights to seeds and biodiversity, as well as our knowledge, innovation and practices. Agroecological systems feed three quarters of the world with just one third of the land already, so we cannot help but question what vested interests make it so difficult to include explicit promotion of agroecology from the world's strategy to preserve biodiversity.

Given the limited success of two decades of CBD target-setting policies, including the failed Aichi Targets, adopting another set of numerical biodiversity targets seems misguided. Numerical targets reduce the issues facing the world's complex ecosystems to 'paper targets' divorced from questions of quality, and can distract and divert resources from effective implementation. We support the creation of targets based on '**vectors of change**', where narratives can be built to show synergy amongst actors (such as Indigenous peoples and smallholders), themes of

¹ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html>

² <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1650694>



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conservation, sustainable use, and benefit sharing, and systems such as mountains or deep seas. Such an approach would also allow the framework to map accountabilities from local to national levels, as we know implementation is only effective at grassroots to national levels.

Some examples of the problems of the proposed targets include:

- Target 6 – how will application of or pollution from biocides be measured? Even Australia admitted in a 2019 report that ‘there is a dearth of detailed information about the extent of use of chemicals’.³
- Target 9 – how will sustainable agriculture be defined? Who will write the definition? Will smallholders’ land even be included when our efforts are too often ignored in national statistical reporting?
- Target 17 – while the target includes ‘regulatory incentives’, the proposed indicators refer to financial measures only, ignoring the role of public policy.
- Target 19 – this target includes traditional knowledge in its call for quality information, but ignores the role of IPLCs not only in its creation and maintenance, but also decision making about its use.

The industrial food system and extractive industries are the primary causes of climate change, biodiversity loss, and the destruction of ecosystems. A transition to more diversified and sustainable systems of food production and a rapid transition away from unsustainable energy, manufacturing, and transport industries is therefore urgent. Setting targets that steadily increase areas controlled and managed by Indigenous Peoples and small-scale food producers is one sure way to reverse the biodiversity losses the world is currently experiencing.

³ <https://www.atse.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/pesticide-use-australia.pdf>