

**CBD COP-15: Statement by Third World Network at Stocktake Plenary
17 December 2022**

Thank you My President. I am from the Third World Network, a member of the CBD Alliance.

This is a turning point for the CBD.

There is no biodiversity without justice. There is no ambition without justice.

Justice has to be operationalized in relation to protecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, who are our true stewards of biodiversity, and also in righting the wrongs inflicted on them over centuries. There is also a need to hold corporations to account. Too often, their extractivist activities have destroyed biodiversity and violated rights.

Equity and the principle of CBDR are at the heart of the Convention. As most of the world's biodiversity is in developing countries, they will have the most burden of implementation. The GBF is raising ambition with onerous obligations for developing countries to take action to meet the goals and targets, as well as to monitor, review and report on this. More than 70 developing countries have called for increased new and additional financial resources, and the establishment of a new GBFund with easier access modalities.

This is not about begging for money. There is an ecological debt owed to the developing world and to IPLCs. From 1990-2015, the cumulative net drain of resources flowing from the developing to developed countries is estimated at \$242 trillion USD.

All this has to be seen in the context of structural issues such as unfair debt that developing countries are drowning in, especially after the COVID pandemic.

Equity and justice are seriously needed here in Montreal. Right here, right now.

Thank you.