

Mexico will host a Crucial Meeting for the Planet's Biodiversity

From 4 to December 17 the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will be held in Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico. This meeting will involve governments, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, academia and citizens around the world interested in taking the necessary measures to preserve the planet's biological wealth which is the base for human and our planet's life. Some of the main issues to be discussed will be:

- **Mainstreaming biodiversity**, as a way to integrate biodiversity into cross-sectoral policies and sector specific plans, starting with agriculture, fisheries, forests and tourism. Based on the right approaches, this can represent a great opportunity to reform many processes within these sectors to halt the destruction of biodiversity and therefore shift to different development models, which is the expectation from civil society.
- **Synthetic biology**, a very controversial issue, which represents the next generation of biotechnology that tries to redesign, re-edit and synthesize biological systems even at the genetic level. The CBD is the only international body that has regulations in this regards; however, companies and countries that have large interests in this multimillionaire business, try to bring these new technologies out of any control, ignoring the great economic, social and environmental risks involved.
- **Aichi Targets**, which are part of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 of the CBD. They represent a roadmap to guide us towards the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. However, recent studies show that despite the progress made most goals may not be met by 2020 if we continue with the current trend of destruction of biodiversity. During COP 13, delegates will debate and decide on the **means of implementation** that will help us reverse this situation and reach these targets or continue with the destruction of our livelihoods and of our nature.
- **Discuss finance mechanisms and resource mobilization** is part of the mandate of COP 13. There is great interest in involving the private sector in the CBD. While it is clear that all sectors must contribute to this process, it is also evident to understand that the logics of overconsumption and overproduction are responsible for the current environmental degradation and therefore, we can't have a market approach if we want to stop it. It is important that civil society is present, critical and shows the different solutions that are already being implemented so they can be replicated in order to leave the logics of capital and switch to logics of respect for the rights of our mother earth.
- **Nagoya Protocol and the Cartagena Protocol**. In parallel with the COP 13, negotiation sessions for these two agreements will take place to address issues related to the access to genetic resources and equitable enjoyment of the benefits derived from their use and biosafety. The decisions taken in both will be crucial for the achievement of the goals of the Convention.

The CBD Alliance will participate in the COP 13 opening spaces for civil society to manifest their concerns, present their proposals to the delegations present at the meeting and ensure the construction of a society that can live in harmony with itself and with our mother earth.

As CBD Alliance, we invite journalists and citizens to contribute to this important event for everyone. How can you contribute? Participating at COP 13; making advocacy work; disseminating information; making different choices of consumption in your private life; linking groups; staging protests and peaceful demonstrations and more. If you want to perform any of these actions with the CBD Alliance, you can write to email: gadirlavadenz@gmail.com or through our social networks.

Who we are

The CBD Alliance is a network that includes more than 400 organizations, communities and academics concerned about biodiversity. Our main task is to build bridges and ensure cooperation among stakeholders to ensure that the objectives of the CBD are met and that our biodiversity and her rights are recognized.

More information:

To know more about the work of the CBD Alliance at COP 13 and member organizations visit: <http://www.cbdalliance.info/> and follow us on: Facebook as CBD Alliance and Twitter as @CBD_Alliance.

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