

COPMOP2018 - PRRI Statement Closing Plenary Session

Thank you Madam President,

I speak on behalf of the delegation of the Public Research and Regulation Initiative (PRRI).

Madam President, as the opening session reminded us, the world community is confronted with derailing challenges such as hunger, environmental degradation, loss of species, and climate change.

We need all hands on deck to reverse these trends, to adapt to the changing circumstances, and to maintain the Sustainable Development Goals, while leaving nobody behind.

As article 16 of the Convention and the Preamble of the Biosafety Protocol tell us, biotechnology is essential to achieve the objectives of the Convention and has great potential for human well being.

We, public sector scientists, are tasked by our governments to help develop such biotechnological solutions.

Madam President, during this COPMOP we noted with appreciation the growing awareness among negotiators of the importance of modern biotechnology for human well being and the environment, and as a tool to help bridge the poverty gap.

With that perspective, we urge all governments to make an extra effort to convey this to the general public, and to explain that sustainable development requires that we combine the best elements of all available technologies, be they traditional or new.

With that same perspective, Madam President, we urge all governments to ensure that policies and regulations are firmly grounded on scientific evidence.

Thank you Madam President