



CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Fifteenth meeting – Part II
Montreal, Canada
7-19 December, 2022

Please note - This is the final, 7 december, 944am with all the WC members inperson and online. NO MORE COMMENTS.

7 December 2022

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING STATEMENT

OPENING STATEMENT

Thanks, Chair,

My name is **Amelia Arreguin** from Mexico, speaking on behalf of the UNCBD Women's Caucus.

After four years, coming all the way from Sharm El Sheik 2018, we would like to thank all the "Gender Champions" who have supported and built the momentum of hope: hope for justice by tightly weaving women and girls rights in the post2020 GBF, particularly in Target 21 and 22, and the post2020 Gender Plan of Action.

Women and girls, from the ocean to the tundra, on top of nurturing their families and communities, and despite the increasing negative impacts that biodiversity loss poses over them, on a daily basis, they keep shaping biodiversity by being its guardians, managers, users and defenders.

Today, for COP15 these are our recommendations:

- Ensure ***human rights-based approach*** including the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, **and gender justice**.
- ***Ensure gender responsiveness***. It is one of the 13 principles set out for the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework taken at COP14 Decision 34, Annex Para A.2.c.
- We welcome the **Post-2020 Gender Plan of Action** and urge its full and effective implementation.



- Adopt a ***whole-of-society approach*** by recognising the diverse knowledge, innovation and practices to biodiversity governance, and ensure women and girls effective, equitable and full participation at all levels of decision-making.
- ***Capacity-building strategies*** should integrate different knowledge systems, be culturally appropriate, contextual, and gender-responsive in their content and form.
- The success of ***technical and scientific cooperation and knowledge management*** lies in the inclusion of women's knowledge, practices and innovations.
- ***Communication*** initiatives must challenge gender stereotypes, and acknowledge women's and girls' contributions to biodiversity conservation. Even more, partnerships with women's groups should be set up to reach the local levels effectively.
- ***Ensure*** that mainstreaming biodiversity policies and planning embed gender just accountability, and due diligence.
- ***Ensure that processes for monitoring, review and reporting are*** gender-responsive and collect gender disaggregated data.

In summary, we have only one request for you today: Any decision resulting from COP15 should not perpetuate gender inequalities, including gender-based violence linked to the environment. Rather we encourage all Parties to find a way to, while conserving biodiversity, pursue gender equality.

Thank You



Intervention here.....

Call for Action

Communication of concerns

GBF responsiveness

Recognition of women

Corporate capture

Put the financial mechanism in place

Monitoring and reporting

Aspiration

Inclusion

Status of women

INPUT HERE YOUR THOUGHTS. AS BULLET POINTS, OR 1 OR 2 SENTENCES. USE SUGGESTION MODE

Acknowledge the support from Parties for their support to the Target 22 at the closing plenary of the OEWG5

We want to thank the Parties of the OEWG for reaching a consensus on a strong target on gender equality recognizing the rights and role and contributions of women in biodiversity policy and practices. We also celebrate a strong target on Indigenous peoples' rights, access to justice and environmental defenders. We hope these targets will be the foundation of an ambitious, inclusive, effective equitable and genuine rights-based GBF. We call upon Parties to continue to actively strive for the highest common denominator in this respect. We once again call upon Parties to integrate gender considerations in all other relevant items that are still being negotiated, the resource mobilization strategy, and other COP decisions. We welcome the draft Gender Plan of Action and call for its adoption.

Gender-responsive resource mobilization is essential if biodiversity policy is to become more gender-just. We are highly concerned about the increasing privatization of resource mobilization through an "all sources" approach. Private sector investments in biodiversity, especially when they come in the form of carbon or biodiversity offsets, can be exceptionally harmful to women, [also because they tend to prioritize fortress conservation instead of gender just biodiversity governance by Indigenous Peoples and local communities.] We firmly reject the increasing corporate capture of the CBD process.

Women have always shaped biodiversity, taken care of the planet and fed communities. Therefore, their inclusion during design and implementation of international policies that affect life on earth! This is why we come to Canada from all over the world; to remind the world of this and other truths, that our rights are not being respected, our knowledge is not being taken into account and we are being hindered from accessing the necessary resources to continue our work as land and sea stewards. But also, we come to Montreal to reimagine a future in which our desires as women, based on our trajectories as local activists, materialize in a context in



which humanity reconciles with Planet Earth. Support us, read our publications, participate in our activities during COP-15!

At this COP, we will raise our voices so that a new global biodiversity framework is created with a true gender perspective. We would strongly like to emphasize on the need to boldly articulate and materialize gender mainstreaming the implementation of GBF.

When we talk about women we are not just talking about women we are talking about the whole society not only because women take the largest number of the population but also because women have the nature to influence the society from household level. It is not optional to understand and work on the need for integrating sexual reproductive health rights in to biodiversity conservation but a must!

Women form an integral part of building society from nurturing and caring for families to ensuring the protection of the environment through their God given will to serve the home and nurture living beings. Women are highly involved in the utilization of natural resources from farming to harnessing non-timber forest products to gathering at all levels including trade with biodiversity at both subsistence and commercial levels. However, they are limited in decision-making processes due to inadequate policies and global strategies that have consistently failed to integrate gender perspective as key components/targets. Women are mostly susceptible to the effects of climate change and other environmental disasters due to their vulnerability, gender inequality, and the difficulties in of access to financial resources. Women are already creating the enabling environment and platform through several forums such as the women caucus on biodiversity to take concrete actions that promote biodiversity conservation at national and global levels. With the integration of the gender target in the GBF, women will be particular to ensuring present and future generations are catered for without compromising the sustainability of the planet and nature's contribution to people.

Thanks,

DO NOT READ

For further information contact UNCBD Women's Caucus Coordination

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NOTE FOR READER:

You do not have to sent the statement to the Secretariat, the coordinators have sent it already
(Applies for Dec 7 onwards)