



**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

Fifteenth meeting – Part II

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15 December 2022

HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT

UNCBD Women’s Caucus Statement

Mrinalini Rai (mrinalini.rai@women4biodiversity.org)

As we await the adoption of the Post-2020 GBF, including Target 22 on Gender Equality and Gender Plan of Action, I take this opportunity to thank all of you, Parties and allies who have supported our relentless effort in integrating gender into the Convention's body of work, and in particular into the Post 2020 GBF. This marks a groundbreaking moment in our years of advocacy, lobbying, discourses, and consultations around the importance of recognizing rights of all women and girls at the heart of the Convention.

Organised by the Ministry of Environment of Finland, in collaboration with the CBD Friends of Gender Equality group, Women’s Caucus, Co-Chaired by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change of Malawi, and Environment and Climate Change Canada - Ministerial Breakfast yesterday addressed “Accelerating the update of a gender responsiveness post-2020 global biodiversity framework”.

We are at a critical juncture of negotiations to enable an agreement for a transformative, inclusive and human rights-based framework that effectively and equitably addresses the drivers of biodiversity loss with rights-based actions and a whole-of-society approach. Women for the first time are being recognized in their rights and roles as key biodiversity custodians, their knowledge and practices of conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable benefit-sharing.

If we fail here now to identify and acknowledge gender differences and exclude communities and specifically women in those communities to engage in and benefit from sustained conservation efforts then, we, will be key contributors of inequality, increased poverty, and biodiversity degradation at large. We must ensure inclusive and “whole of society” approach in the implementation of the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

These are our shared and key recommendations:



- Make it happen: a fully **gender-responsive GBF** with a gender equality target
- **Adoption of the Post-2020 Gender Plan** of Action that will further help in guiding the monitoring and reporting of the GBF
- **Adequate resources** to fully operationalize the whole of the GBF.
- Full protection of **women environmental human rights defenders**
- **Legally binding social and environmental safeguards** applied to new approaches such as Nature based Solutions to ensure gender responsive and rights-based implementation
- Gender responsive **headline indicators** in the monitoring framework
- Pursuant to the **Kunming Declaration**, “respect, protect and promote human rights obligations when taking actions to protect biodiversity.”

We call to action for a human rights based Post2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Any decision at COP15 should not perpetuate gender inequalities, including gender-based violence linked to the environment.

We count on you, all Parties to secure the way at this COP to ensure gender equality as part of the solution and pursue the transformative vision of living in harmony with nature.

Gender equality is a human rights and human rights are non-negotiable.

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