



August 12th, 2024

**CBD/WGDSI/2/2**  
**Montreal, Canada**  
**12-16 August, 2024**

## **CBD WC WGDSI-2 Opening Statement**

Thank you, Co-Chair

I am Edda Fernández from Avaaz, speaking on behalf of the CBD Women's Caucus.

Distinguished Delegates, the common goal we all share is to make the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework possible.

Financing from all sources is needed, and that is the road we are building on here in Montreal.

But we are also here to ensure that we keep on walking within the "comprehensive package" that the GBF was agreed upon, which includes a whole-of-society approach, a human rights-based approach, and a strong emphasis on advancing gender equality and women's empowerment.

The CBD Women's Caucus emphasises, again, that the specific reference to women, as to youth, to Indigenous Peoples and to local communities, is not just about naming them, but to effectively consider these relevant stakeholders as actors and partners in biodiversity conservation. Therefore, this approach should be reflected throughout our deliberations during this Working Group Second Meeting.

Yet, we are working with documents where key right-holders are not being referred to as partners and actors. Women are generally not even mentioned. One of many examples is paragraph 20 in document CBD/WGDSI/2/2, where women, as well as youth, are not even mentioned. And this paragraph is in the part addressing direct resource allocations; yet direct access to funding is a relevant element to effectively support biodiversity conservation on the ground, carried on by Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and youth.

As COP16 is being prepared as a Conference of the People, the work of this Working Group should present the COP with solid recommendations on how access and benefit sharing from DSI of Genetic Resources will address and reach rights holders as actors on the ground - that is, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

All Parties, stakeholders and right holders in this room have collectively agreed to an ambitious plan; now, we must ensure that we apply just and inclusive principles.

The CBD Women's Caucus stands ready as a dedicated partner in this endeavour.

Thank you, Co-chair.