



**15 Dec 2022**

**HL Breakfast Statementt**

**Mrinalini Rai, Women4Biodiversity**

**Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations, Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group**

**Ms. Tarja Haaranen, Director General, on behalf of H.E.  
Ms. Maria Ohisalo, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Finland**

Good morning everyone and thank you taking this moment in the busy negotiations to join us today.

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 and recognises the rights and contributions of rights holders, especially Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, women, and girls and youth.

Halting biodiversity loss requires no less than changing the production and consumption patterns, land and resource use governance to more equitable and sustainable models. Women have been key biodiversity custodians but their rights, innovations, knowledge and practices have been neglected and their participation in planning, policy and decision-making are often overlooked. These gender-differentiated impacts are not anecdotal; they are systemic and interrelated.

Women's full and effective participation in conservation action makes a difference around the globe – it is estimated that 47% of work in the fishery sector on a global scale is provided by women, but their roles are often undocumented by national statistics and databases – in Cambodia, it is estimated that women own 61.2% of the 505,134 Micro-Small-Medium Enterprises (MSME).<sup>7</sup> Community Forestry Groups in Nepal with a high proportion of women in their executive committee showed greater improvements in forest regeneration and canopy growth despite receiving much smaller and degraded forests (Agarwal, 20098).

Examples from around the globe show that collecting gender data and using gender-sensitive indicators can provide vital information for adjusting programmes and activities. It can facilitate progress towards gender equality and women empowerment goals at all levels and sectors.



In May at the UNCCD COP 15, The Gender Caucus<sup>1</sup> , through the Abidjan declaration on achieving gender equality for successful land restoration<sup>2</sup> recognized that equitable land governance and land tenure security are fundamental components to enable land degradation neutrality and land restoration efforts.

Just a few weeks back, CITES adopted a decision to develop their Gender Action Plan to be presented at CITES COP16

This is the opportune time to strengthen synergies in bringing the work of the Rio Conventions to align with each other.;

Gender equality has been and continues to be recognized as a critical crosscutting issue in the major multilateral environmental agreements. In 1992, Agenda 21 set the stage with **Chapter 24: “Women have considerable knowledge and experience in managing and conserving natural resources.”**

Respect and promotion of women's rights and human rights generally are the heart of the CBD, It's preamble text, “recognises the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and affirming the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policy-making and implementation for biological diversity conservation,”

Adoption of **target 22**, the stand alone target on Gender Equity in the GBF, would serve to **guide all biodiversity-related planning, policies and implementation with a gender lens that would ensure the full realisation of the global biodiversity framework**. It would **drive action towards gender equality priorities** and would **ensure that countries consider this target in their planning, monitoring and reporting processes**.

Let's seize this moment.....to ensure that “the whole of society” has the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and to ensure that this time around we do not leave anyone behind.

As Ms. Amina Mohamud said in her speech - **it's long overdue**.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Gender Caucus, UNCCD COP15 2022.

<https://www.unccd.int/cop15/gender-caucus#:~:text=The%20Gender%20Caucus%2C%20taking%20place,the%20implementation%20of%20the%20Convention.>

<sup>2</sup>

<https://www.unccd.int/news-stories/stories/abidjan-declaration-achieving-gender-equality-successful-land-restoration>



WE WOULD LIKE TO CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO

# MINISTERIAL BREAKFAST



Ympäristöministeriö  
Miljöministeriet  
Ministry of the Environment

Accelerating the uptake of a gender-  
responsive post-2020 global  
biodiversity framework

Thursday, 15 December 2022, 8:00 - 9:45  
Room 710 B, 7th floor, Palais des congrès, Montréal

Organized by the Ministry of Environment of Finland,  
in collaboration with the CBD Friends of Gender Equality Group,  
co-chaired by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate  
Change of Malawi, and Environment and Climate Change Canada



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada

By invitation only

Please RSVP to [maud.woiczik@un.org](mailto:maud.woiczik@un.org).  
Kindly inform us of your dietary restrictions.