Thank you, Chair

I speak on behalf of the CBD Women Caucus, an alliance representing women, grassroots women organizations and networks and their agencies in working to advance women and girl’s empowerment and gender justice in the work of the CBD.

It is time to move away from the focus on women's vulnerabilities to the recognition of women and girls as agents of change and biodiversity defenders. Therefore, the new GBF has an important role to play to guarantee that whichever agreements we build, DO NOT increase women and girls’ burden; au contraire, that they are included as active actors in bending the curve of biodiversity loss.

The upcoming International Women’s Day on the 8th of March, with the theme "Each for Equal", offers a time to continue breaking down systemic barriers for women and girls at every corner of the Planet. In this context, the CBD has the responsibility to leave no-one behind, it has to further recognize and mainstream the vital role of women and girls in biodiversity conservation, restoration, sustainable use and fair and equitable benefit sharing.

We urge us all to ACT NOW. We need to SET THE STAGE, we need to CHANGE THE NARRATIVE. Biodiversity is NOT something you just use, conserve or derive benefits from; it DOES NOT only mitigate climate change, BUT it is the LIFELINE for all of us.

But for that to happen, for nature, for climate, for disaster risk reduction, species and others - biodiversity TOO needs to be “living well” so that it can provide for us ‘services’ and 'benefits’. Paraphrasing what one of the Parties said, “If humans are extinct, biodiversity will thrive. If biodiversity is extinct, humans will not survive.”

There are a lot of good intentions on vision, goals and targets, BUT to go forward we need to be more ambitious. The new Global Biodiversity Framework should ensure inclusivity, respect, as well as an equitable, impactful and COLLECTIVE effort, as we all aspire for the same thing: having a healthy planet for the current and future generations.

To have a safe, clean and healthy environment, we have to respect, protect and fulfil human rights, which include women’ rights. We must heal and protect our planet; we must live in harmony within nature.
There have been some advances at this meeting. We will stay attentive, and we will contribute to strengthen these dispositions to ensure that the GBF is truly gender responsive. In the meantime, we encourage all parties to be proactive during SBI3 and participate effectively on the review and update of the CBD Gender Plan of Action.

We want to thank Parties that have taken leadership in recognizing the role of indigenous peoples’ and local communities, women and youth. A BIG SHOUT-OUT to Costa Rica, Argentina, Mexico, Chile, Eswatini and Cambodia.

THANKS!