



**Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
Second meeting
Rome, 24-29 February 2020**

**CLOSING STATEMENT, FEBRUARY 29, 2020
CBD Women Caucus Statement**

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!