



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

**February 25 2020
Item 4: Zero Draft Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
CBD Women Statement**

Thank you Chair,

Following our Opening Statement this morning and reflecting on the reporting of the various thematic consultations and expert workshops that have taken place in which gender and women's roles have been explicitly recognized and acknowledged, it still seems to be **missing in being adequately addressed in the Zero Draft for the Post-2020**.

Women's rights is not something to be put on the side or something to be mainstreamed or be down sided for being an 'enabling condition" - **Women's rights** are the fundamental human **rights** that were enshrined by the United Nations for every human being on the planet **nearly 70 years ago**. These **rights** include the **right** to live free from violence, slavery, and discrimination; to be educated; to own property; to vote; and to earn a fair and equal wage

It is urgent to have concrete inclusion of **gender responsive actions that are reflected in the goals, targets and indicators of the post 2020 GBF**. Women are half of the world, they are the nurturers and caregivers, protectors, they are an integral essence of "**intergenerational equity**" and yet we keep them on the sidelines as "**others**" - **this now is not acceptable**. Their experience, knowledge and innovations related with biodiversity should not be ignored or dismissed nor simply used as policy instruments and be translated just in **numbers**.

Gender-responsive approaches have very **limited reference in the Zero Draft (2 mentions)** and only in the context of "**participation**". This is tokenism. In the **Addendum (CBD/WG2020/2/3/Add.1)** that follows limits it to **ONLY Target 19**, only in the context of **Traditional Knowledge** and still misses to include the third pillar "*equitable benefit sharing*" aspect of the CBD in this regard, - this target seems half-baked.

There is a strong proposal for a **stand-alone Target on Gender (CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF6 & 17)** . We encourage you to commit yourselves truly to women and girls rights, to ensure that the next GBF won't increase the oppression we face, au contraire, GBF will be a change game agent to achieve gender justice which is part of living in harmony with nature.

Biodiversity matters, whether or not we think that specific species, genes or ecosystems are of direct interest to human needs and wellbeing. Biodiversity is not just a fix for mitigation climate. It is increasingly becoming clear that biodiversity underpins human well-being and livelihoods, and is vital to the achievement of most Sustainable Development Goals.

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) can be powerful opportunities, and women-led and gender-responsive NBS can and must be identified, championed, valued and supported including at significant scale to meet the post-2020 BD goals. If we fail to address this, then a note of caution, **nature-based solutions without a right-based and gender-responsive approach would be white washing REDD+ for biodiversity**.

Thank you.