



Open-Ended Working Group on the Post2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

August 27-30, 2019, Nairobi

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF WOMEN CAUCUS

OPENING STATEMENT

ITEM 3: REPORTS OF CONSULTATIONS AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE POST-2020 PROCESS (6 MINUTES)

Thank you Co-Chairs

I am Amelia Arreguin from Mexico, speaking on behalf of the CDB Women Caucus.

We thank the Secretariat of the CBD, Parties, “Friends of Gender Equality” group and UN Agencies, including UN Women for their leadership and the Co-Chairs for ensuring that gender consideration was incorporated in the regional consultations that have taken place for far, including in the Thematic workshops.

Gender equality is a prerequisite to achieve 2050 vision “Living in Harmony with Nature” . In the Second Synthesis Views (CBD/Post2020/Prep/1/INF/2), we again note the several submissions suggests that “people” should be more strongly reflected and considered in the new Post2020 GBF, including the need for social justice, human rights, rights of nature and gender responsive approaches to conservation and sustainable use.”

There is a growing recognition of the differentiated roles and impacts of biodiversity loss for women and men, and the new ambitious framework should put in place concrete actions (such as Targets and Indicators) to ensure that gender equality becomes an integral part of mainstreaming biodiversity in order to align and realize SDG 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. This will truly reflect the commitment that the Convention and all of us here, know and recognize.

But it is now time to embrace the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework should be rights-based, gender-responsive, inclusive, participatory and equitable that recognizes women’s individual and collective-rights. This means that the framework should recognize and enhance the agency and leadership of women, including indigenous women and women in local communities, youth, elder and girls, in all biodiversity processes.

There is a need to address the direct drivers of biodiversity loss and pervasive incentives and address inequalities, between countries, between the rich and poor, women and men, including addressing violence against women, in particular against environmental defenders.

“Recognizing that, conversely, the impacts of climate change, pollution, the unsustainable management and use of natural resources, the unsound management of chemicals and waste, the resulting loss of biodiversity and the decline in services provided by ecosystems may interfere with the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and that environmental damage can have negative implications, both direct and indirect, for the effective enjoyment of all human rights”



especially for “those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations” including women and girls”.

*The **Human-Rights Council Resolution 37/8** stated “more than 100 States have recognized some form of a right to a healthy environment in, inter alia, international agreements, their constitutions, legislation or policies “- we want to see the practical implementation of these recognitions, that indeed are already stated as Human-Rights¹.*

There is progress being made and recognition and support being garnered towards recognition of women as agents of change but there needs to be synergy between and among these processes and reflected accordingly in policies. Earlier in the year, in March - this was the same venue where Members States came together for the (4 UN Environment Assembly-4) and adopted 23 resolutions, one being to “Promote gender equality, and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance (UNEP/EA.4/RES.17)”. [\[Some of you were here and worked hard to ensure that this resolution stays - Thank you\]](#)

We are greatly encouraged that many submissions, reports from regional consultation that are presented for the consideration of this 1st OEWG meeting, which include emphasis on the need to reflect gender equality, documentation of good practices, recommendations from regional, thematic consultations on gender-responsive approaches to Post2020 GBF. We hope that those aspirations, needs and contributions which WE warmly welcome - will be widely supported, recognized and be transformed into local, national, regional and global policies and actions for nature conservation and global sustainability.

One recommendation that we would like to present in line with the ongoing work on the Post-2020 discussion leading to CBD COP15 and reflective of CBD/WG2020/1/4 on Future work for SBI-3

- We support the Gender Plan of Action 2015-2020 to be reviewed, updated, strengthened and recommend to extended to 2030 to align with the new framework.
- We appreciate the funding support that has been allocated for women representatives to attend various consultations. However, we would have hoped for the same to be able to attend this important meeting of the 1st OEWG, not only for us, women, but for all constituencies present here.

Hence, another recommendation we would like you to support us with.

- To have some dedicated funding support to all Stakeholders, including indigenous peoples’ and local communities, civil society organizations, youth and women to ensure their effective participation and contributions for the next two OEWDs taking place until COP 15, and any other discussion platforms.

¹ <https://www.google.com/url?q=https://www.universal-rights.org/by-invitation/it-is-time-for-the-united-nations-to-recognise-the-human-right-to-a-healthy-environment/&sa=D&ust=1566895671378000&usq=AFQjCNG5v fgfCqexPKKasSiBAG20EN3rQ>



We are here and we look forward to working together with all of you over the next 3-days to ensure that the “Right to a Healthy Environment” does not come with a heavy price of further burdening those already most impacted, including women and children.

We will also provide concrete recommendations for ITEM 4, this afternoon.

Thank you very much for your time and we will submit our Statement in written to the Secretariat.