



**Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice**  
**Twenty-third meeting**  
**Montreal, Canada, 25-29 November 2019**  
[women4biodiversity@gmail.com](mailto:women4biodiversity@gmail.com)

Day 2: November 26, 2019 (FINAL)

#### **ITEM 4. BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

Thank you, Chair. I speak on behalf of the CBD Women Caucus.

It is now widely recognized that climate change and biodiversity loss are inseparable threats to humankind, and must be addressed together.

Failing to achieve global warming well below 1.5° degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels will prevent us from reaching biodiversity goals, land degradation neutrality and the SDGs.

We stress that taking a gender-responsive approach to the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change contributes to environmental protection and sustainable livelihoods.

As with biodiversity, climate change does not affect women and men in the same way, and it has, and will have, a gender-differentiated impact.

Women -particularly in poor countries- are among the most vulnerable to climate change. More women than men die in disasters linked to climate change.

Women make up 43 per cent of the global agricultural workforce, a sector closely linked to climate change and with large impacts on biodiversity.

In Africa, women are responsible for managing 90 per cent of all household water and fuel-wood needs. Drought and erratic rainfall force women to work harder to secure food, water and energy for their homes. Girls drop out of school to help their mothers. It is of vital importance to protect and include women and girls in climate change and conservation strategies.

It is essential that CBD decisions and recommendations, including the Gender Action Plan, are fully integrated in, and respected by, climate policies. Governments should make a firm commitment to policy coherence in this respect.

Climate and biodiversity policies at all levels must respect Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women's rights. They cannot harm women nor evict communities.

Even though the CBD is aware of all these issues, we cannot see actions or concrete lines on how they will be addressed in the post 2020, as evidenced by document CBD/SBSTTA/23/INF/1

We think the term “nature-based solutions” should be removed from the text as is not equivalent to ecosystem-based approaches.

Lastly, the CBD understands the fundamental roles that women play in managing and conserving biodiversity, and the need to integrate a gender perspective into its work. We call Parties and all relevant stakeholders to guarantee this when integrating biodiversity and climate change.

I thank you again.