



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

Day 1: November 25, 2019

---

## **OPENING STATEMENT**

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

As we look to 2050, we'll have 10 million people, 25 million new kilometers of roads, 50% increase in food demand, 45% demand for water, **and there will be more plastics in the ocean than biomass.**

**Agriculture** remains the most important employment sector for women in developing countries in rural areas, a sector that falls largely within the informal economy with little or no social protection and labour rights. (I can at least for South Asia, where by 60% of the labour are women). They are a large work force but less than 13% of agricultural landholders are women. Women are also traditionally the seed keepers and manage resources in the fields and in the wild especially for food purposes hence playing a fundamental role in conserving biodiversity.... And securing good lives for many

**Water**, women and girls are often responsible for fetching water in rural area.

There are also research that shows that of the approx. 2.5 billion people who rely on community lands, more than half are Indigenous and rural women. They contribute immensely to biodiversity but their rights and roles are often unrecognised. Globally through integrated actions across many conventions IPLC women are tackling many of the direct and indirect threats to biodiversity and resources must be increased and earmarked for their local solutions providing many benefits

Various reports and assessments - the IPBES, Climate, Land and others show that biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation are taking place on a massive scale, with no signs of decrease. These reports have made various recommendations and we need to listen NOW, as if these trends go on, then the burden on women will only get heavier.

Though Parties to the CBD have explicitly recognized the important role of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and women Yet, many Parties and stakeholders continue to emphasize conventional approaches like protected areas and market-based mechanism which exclude, marginalize or even violate the rights of Indigenous Peoples, peasants, local communities and women. The need to steer away from the current limited paradigm of economic growth to a more



---

global sustainable economy is already reflected in the meeting document (CBD/SBSTTA/23/2, 21(e)). There is a need to genuinely addressing it in the development of the GBF.

We call on Parties and the Secretariat to duly implement the recommendation to ensure full and effective participation of women and other rightsholder groups in the post-2020 process and to fully integrate support for their conservation initiatives and the social and cultural dimension of biodiversity conservation, including the gender dimension, throughout the post-2020 framework.

We strongly support proposals for a new separate target on gender. On top of that we also urge Parties to integrate gender considerations in the other targets proposed as gender mainstreaming cannot be done through a pillar approach.

A post-2020 Gender plan of Action could be the mechanism for monitoring the implementation of gender as a central cross-cutting issue in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and we welcome the Secretariat's efforts to seek inputs on the implementation of the current Gender Plan of Action (GPA), through the survey that was just released in a notification<sup>1</sup> on November 21, Friday last week (Note: very short time thought - deadline December 20, 2019). We encourage all Parties and observer organizations provide input into this review process.

Today, **November 25 is the International day for the elimination of violence against women** and following next month **December 10 the International Human Rights day** and here we are in Montreal at an opportunie time and hope that our vision of 2050 - " By 2050 women and girls are recognized as peoples, their collective contributions to biodiversity safeguard and conservation is valued and they have a share of the fair equitable- sharing of benefits arsign from the use of genetic resources and have the **right to a healthy environment**.

We look forward to this week to engage with you and foster partnerships. We will be submitting our Statements to the SCBD and welcome all the support that you, the Parties could stand behind.

Please reach out to us, we are very few here - but we will be making sure we are head and seen.

Thank you, Chair.

---

<sup>1</sup> SCBD/SSSF/AS/JS/TMC/VA/88505. *Notification to: CBD National Focal Points, SBSTTA Focal Points, relevant organizations* Survey on Progress in Implementation of the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action