



Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice  
Twenty-third meeting  
Montreal, Canada, 25-29 November 2019  
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November 29, 2019

### **CLOSING STATEMENT**

Thank you, Chair

I am reading this Statement on behalf of the Women Caucus.

We would like to thank Parties who have supported us in our endeavor and the proposal for a target on gender (CBD/SBSTTA/23/2/Add. 1) Para 152. Thank you and we look forward to working on refining our proposal for target and identifying relevant indicators for further discussions during the 2nd OEWG in February, in Kunming.

We have the responsibility to build a historical moment for the world, a decade that paves the path for transformational change and address the unprecedented challenges we are facing because of the way we live, produce, trade, conserve and interact with the rich biodiversity of life on Earth.

We welcome the recognition that biodiversity loss, climate change, desertification and land degradation are inseparable and interdependent challenges of unprecedented severity that must be coherently and consistently addressed. Nonetheless, we are concerned with limiting the discussion to the direct AND in-direct drivers of biodiversity loss.

Biodiversity goes well beyond the provision of ecosystem functions and services - it is living and responds to how we treat it and how we interact with it. We cannot simply continue to find ways of exploiting all that she has to offer. We need to respect her. We need to respect our relation with her. We need to respect the "rights of nature".

The discussions here, though aspirational, still seem to lack recognition of the value of biodiversity beyond mitigation and adaptation to climate change and DRR with numerous mentions to Nature-Based Solutions that seems to put much emphasis on the carbon sequestration aspect of the contributions of biodiversity. There is increasing reference to ecosystem-based approaches, yet this is not enough.

Beyond Nature based Solutions, *The Metz Charter on Biodiversity*, agreed at the G7 Environment Ministers' meeting in France in May 2019 - recognises the role and need to engage with IPLCs, women and youth, and the Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience, adopted in November 2018, in guiding principles recognizes scientific AND traditional knowledge, the prior informed consent and full and effective participation of IPLCs, a well as engagement of women. G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, adopted in June 2019 also aspires to addressed gender empowerment and notes the IPCC and IPBES reports.

We should not further perpetuate the narrative of a merely technological fix, but re-evaluate and redefine our discourses and practices. All new technologies should be assessed with a precautionary approach, in order to ensure that their use will not have adverse side effects on biodiversity or enhance existing inequalities.

Nature provides services - YES but most importantly It provides us LIFE, and women are an integral part of that.

Thank you, Chair