



**CBD Informal SBI3 Virtual Session
8-12 and 13 March, 2021**

March 11, 2021

**Agenda Item 11. Mechanisms for reporting, assessment and review
of implementation**

Statement of the CBD Women's Caucus

Thank you, Chair,

I am making this statement on behalf of the CBD Women Caucus.

We welcome all documents prepared by the SCBD for the topic on Mainstreaming of Biodiversity within and across sectors and other strategic actions to enhance implementation.

Mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns is important for ensuring that issues related to biodiversity and environmental justice, including gender-concerns, are addressed by all actors in society. We recognise that we all hold responsibility to care for each other and for Mother Earth in a way that sustains healthy ecosystems, protects biodiversity and ourselves, and future generations. However, we also want to stress the importance of State responsibility to ensure that robust frameworks are in place across sectors and departments to secure inclusivity in process and the fair distribution of financial resources for ensuring that mainstreaming doesn't leave anyone behind, nor that it unfairly distributes access to, and control over resources and decision-making to those with unfair advantages, due from uneven power imbalances across society. The issue of mainstreaming is thus also closely linked to resource mobilisation, capacity-building, as well as reporting and review mechanisms under the Convention. All these agenda items must incorporate gender concerns into their processes and implementation, to ensure that financial resources and decision-making power gets distributed in a fair and equitable way during implementation.

We were pleased to read that the Edinburgh Process exploring the role of subnational and local authorities, including cities, in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework had global representation of participants, and an equal gender balance. However, while we support decentralised governance as a way for ensuring better representative and place-sensitive decision-making, we want to stress the need for gender balance within these processes themselves. They must remain sensitive to the specific needs, but also roles that women hold in the implementation of sustainable resource use and the protection of biodiversity.

Current guidance for the Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans contains little to no guidance for the incorporation of gender concerns in the drafting of LBSAPs. Similarly, the Singapore Index on Cities Biodiversity has no indicators linked to, or mentioning gender issues,

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meaning that women and girls risk having their experiences, needs and knowledges being excluded from urban planning. We therefore ask that specific reference be made to the need for gender-sensitivity under Action area 6 of the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other local Authorities for Biodiversity (2021-2030), as well as mention of the need for inclusive decision-making processes in its implementation.

We are pleased that Action area 5 of the Long-term Strategic Approach to Mainstreaming Biodiversity explicitly speaks of the need for gender-sensitivity with regards to biodiversity impacts and future steps towards sustainable consumption and lifestyles. We especially appreciate Action 5.2 calling on Governments at all levels to engage, incentivise, enable and empower rights- and stakeholders, including women, to participate fully, equitably and effectively in decision-making related to mainstreaming of biodiversity. However, this responsibility cannot fall on Governments alone, as business and financial institutions must also ensure better gendered-sensitivity and representation within their own mainstreaming efforts, including the equitable redistribution of resources for ensuring the empowerment of women and other rights-holders in decision-making processes and implementation. This should be reflected in Action areas 2 and 3 addressing the role of business and financial institutions alike.

It necessary to ensure business responsibility for biodiversity, genetic resources and ecosystem services in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights including Business and Human Rights' Gender Guidance on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and to conduct environmental impact assessments and guarantee the rights to participation, access to information and to justice to those affected.

Thank you, Chair