



## **CBD Formal SBSTTA24 Virtual Session SBSTTA24 Plenary 1 (3-4 May)**

**4 May, 2021**

### **Agenda Item 3. Marine and Coastal Biodiversity**

This statement is made on behalf of the CBD Women Caucus.

Marine and coastal biodiversity is a common concern and responsibility and shall be considered as common heritage of humankind. Marine and coastal biodiversity, the species, ecosystems and cultures associated with it, have an intrinsic value and are vital to all life on this blue planet.

An exclusive blue economic interest and inequity in the distribution of its benefits have produced an unprecedented rate and speed of biodiversity loss in the ocean. Climate change, overexploitation, pollution and destruction threatens our planetary survival and human well-being all over the world, and more so on the social, economic and cultural livelihoods, resources and access of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and girls in all their diversity.

We welcome the growing attention to marine and coastal biodiversity as a cross-cutting issue under the CBD and among the parties as expressed in many statements made in the informal session in February as well as in the previous plenary on item 3 of the formal session.

We have made numerous proposals in preparation of the Thematic Workshop on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (2019), the Second Open-ended Working Group on the Post- 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (OEWG2, 2020) up to the informal session in February 2021.

So far, we do not see our proposals considered carefully and meaningfully in the discussions, much less adequately reflected in the draft.

Therefore we reaffirm the relevance of the critical role of women and girls, their knowledge, their rights and leadership in the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity.

We consider it critical that the rights, concerns and empowerment of women and girls as well as gender equality – as universal values – are adequately reflected under all agenda items currently negotiated, including item 6 and 3. We call on parties to ensure that women and girls are represented equally in all bodies and processes and can contribute meaningfully to and benefit from conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity – in accordance with states' existing commitments.

We will provide more detailed proposals to the respective topics of agenda item 6 in the contact group.

Thank you, Chair