



Special Virtual Sessions for SBSTTA 24 and SBI 3,
15-18 September 2020

Time: 7 am -9am Montreal Time

Documents at

<https://www.cbd.int/conferences/sbstta24-sbi3-prep>

September 15, 2020

Women Caucus Statement

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I. LAUNCH OF THE FIFTH EDITION OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK

Speaker : Amelia Arreguin, CBD Women Caucus/ FARN

Thank you, Chair

I am Amelia Arreguin. I am speaking on behalf of the CBD Women Caucus, an alliance representing women, grassroots women organizations and networks and their agencies in working to advance women and girl's empowerment and gender justice in the work of the CBD.

Frustration is bound to creep into the eyes when reading the 5th edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook which marks the end of an era, the Aichi era. Thoughts about insufficient efforts constantly start to haunt our heads as we read through the document. And questions, many questions arise regarding what has to happen so that, as humanity, we react to the biodiversity crisis, and act with enough ambition to move towards coexistence with nature and collective equitable action.

And for us, as Women' constituency, another worsening trend that deeply concerns us is the continuous invisibility of our rights and roles, needs and priorities in biodiversity decision-making affecting the lives of women, girls and their communities and the non-recognition of women's full, effective and meaningful participation, engagement and knowledge related to sustainable use of biodiversity.

We are deeply concerned about the growing gender-based violence in the environmental sector, particularly against women and girls who defend their land and territories. We call attention to , the increase in workloads due to gender roles in biodiversity management as well as the dangers associated with misnamed natural disasters resulting from ecosystems degradation. These trends concern us, mainly because the rising curve of inequality and the curve of biodiversity loss combined hinders women and girls from enjoyment of their full life and their right to a healthy environment.

The GBO5 highlights that there is a ***“need to strengthen further the integration of gender, the role of indigenous peoples and local communities and the level of stakeholder engagement”***. It notes that in the NBSAPs submitted to date (170) gender considerations are reflected by only 76 Parties. We acknowledge the efforts that some Parties are making to address gender considerations in their biodiversity policy, but more needs to be done. We understand the challenge of lack of gender-specific data, but consideration to gender dimension in biodiversity management can be strengthened, including identification of

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gender-responsive indicators to support identification of needs of women as biodiversity key actors and rights holders.

Women and girls are more than a reference, they are more than a word, they are half the population and agents of change and champions in sustainable use of biodiversity, they are the first-line actors in the management and conservation of biodiversity. They are key knowledge holders and play an integral role in the intergenerational transfer of knowledge.

Some recommendations presented in the GBO5 are welcomed but now the task is how those consideration would be integrated fully to further strengthened and implemented within the whole of the Post2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and how the new Gender Plan of Action can help turning these recommendations into actions to ensure social, economic and environmental justice of and for women and girls in biodiversity conservation.

Thank you for this opportunity. WE are here – so please reach out to us.