



SBSTTA 25

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15-20 October, 2023

Agenda Item 3.b Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review; 15 October, 2023

Thanks, Chair

My name is Shruti Ajit from India, speaking on behalf of the UNCBD Women's Caucus.

The Global Biodiversity Progress Report, should be rooted in a human rights-based approach, including a gender-responsive perspective, and founded on diverse systems of knowledge and values. Just as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) was framed with inclusivity, gender equality and human rights as core aspects of its implementation, the report should include data on progress on all human rights, gender justice and social equity aspects of the implementation of the framework, in line with Section C.

The report should include a human rights perspective, and recognize the contributions and voices of Indigenous Peoples, women, youth and local communities. It should embrace cultural wisdom and local knowledge, respect a variety of voices and include culturally sensitive and gender responsive data.

For that, we ask Parties' support for the following insertions:

- Section II. on possible elements of the global review of collective progress, in Para 10.b, in 3rd line after "national contributions" add the following: **"as well as contributions of Indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth"**
- In the same section in Para 10. C, line 6 to add after "discussion among Parties" to add **"other governments, rights holders and stakeholders"**.
- In the same section add a new para 10.f on **"Collective contributions of Indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth"** to recognise those as a key element of the global review.

It should be based on a broad variety of information sources, including the Local Biodiversity Outlook. The composition of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group for the Global Biodiversity Progress Report, should be based on criteria of inclusivity and self-representation. We explicitly ask for 5 dedicated representatives from Indigenous Peoples, local communities,

women and youth groups within the Advisory Group. And, the criteria used for member selection must encompass a reference to the social and cultural aspects of biodiversity.

For that, we ask Parties' support for the following insertions:

- In Annex II. "Terms of reference of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group" in paragraph 4, in line 3 after "research institutions" to add the following: **"and five representatives nominated by indigenous peoples and local communities, women, and youth groups"**.
- And in paragraph 5.a to add at the end of it **"as well as social and cultural aspects of biodiversity;"**

Finally, sufficient resources should be mobilised to ensure such a holistic and balanced approach to the global report, including for capacity-building and supporting the full and effective participation of rights holders in this process.

We would like the Chair to ask Parties to show support for our considerations.

Thank you.

DO NOT READ

Explanatory note:

1. A Human Rights-Centric Perspective:

By infusing this human rights-centered perspective into our endeavor, we firmly align biodiversity conservation with the principles of justice, inclusivity, and dignity for all, ensuring that no one is left behind. Let us make human rights the guiding light in our journey towards a more sustainable and equitable future.

2. Embracing Inclusiveness:

In our joint march towards the realization of the KM-GBF, it is essential to wholeheartedly embrace inclusiveness and acknowledge the invaluable contributions of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), women, and youth. Regrettably, their efforts too often go unnoticed in official reports.

3. Recognizing Contributions and Voices:

Indigenous Peoples, women, youth and local communities play pivotal roles in the implementation of the global biodiversity framework. Their knowledge, traditions, and collective endeavors are indispensable to our conservation goals. Let us ensure that their contributions are not just acknowledged but celebrated in the Global Report.

4. A Multifaceted Mosaic of Values:

Biodiversity is not confined to the pages of scientific literature or the columns of government reports. It encompasses a multifaceted mosaic of values, knowledge, and perspectives. The Global Report should wholeheartedly embrace and reflect this diversity.

5. Embracing Cultural Wisdom and Local Knowledge:

Indigenous wisdom, local knowledge, and traditional practices hold a significance equal to scientific data. By incorporating these diverse sources, we attain a more comprehensive and culturally sensitive understanding of the challenges and solutions within the realm of biodiversity.

6. Respect for Varied Voices:

Our global report should exemplify a profound respect for and reflection of the diversity of voices, values, and knowledge that enrich our shared quest for a biodiverse and sustainable planet.

7. Culturally Sensitive and Gender-Responsive Data:

There is an undeniable urgency to enhance the quality of our data and models for a better understanding of biodiversity and its conservation. Yet, this enhancement must not be devoid of cultural sensitivity and gender responsiveness.

8. Include Data on Drivers

The report should include gender-differentiated data on the direct and underlying drivers of biodiversity loss and biodiversity conservation, including public and private financial flows and

other resources like the collective non-market based actions of local communities and Indigenous Peoples, in which women often play a central role.

In shaping the Scientific and Technical Advisory Group for the Global Biodiversity Progress Report, we cannot compromise on inclusivity and comprehensive criteria. To ensure a holistic and balanced perspective, we strongly recommend the following:

- **Explicit Representation:**** We firmly advocate for explicit representation of Indigenous Peoples (IP), women, youth and Local Communities within the Advisory Group. Five dedicated representatives from these groups will serve to guarantee the incorporation of diverse perspectives and experiences.
- **Comprehensive Criteria:**** The criteria used for member selection must encompass a reference to the social and cultural aspects of biodiversity. This recognition underscores the significance of understanding these dimensions in conjunction with scientific and technical expertise.

By weaving inclusivity and inclusive criteria into the terms of reference for the Advisory Group, we can assure a more profound and meaningful analysis of biodiversity status, trends, and the social and cultural dimensions that lie at the core of our global biodiversity conservation efforts.

For further information contact CBD Women's Caucus Coordination

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