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|  |  | Distr.  GENERAL  [Subject]  26 April 2021  ORIGINAL: ENGLISH |

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION

Third meeting

Online, 16 May – 13 June 2021

Item 5 of the provisional agenda[[1]](#footnote-1)\*

[Title]

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The present document contains a revised draft outline of a gender plan of action for the post-2020 period. The draft has been revised on the basis of submissions received during two consultations on the draft outline, the first of which was open for comments from 4 to 31 August 2020[[2]](#footnote-2) and the second of which was open from 2 to 22 March 2021.[[3]](#footnote-3) This draft is also informed by and is intended to align with the updated zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, dated 17 August 2020 ([CBD/POST2020/PREP/2/1](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/3064/749a/0f65ac7f9def86707f4eaefa/post2020-prep-02-01-en.pdf)).
2. The present document provides a summary of comments received during the most recent consultation, and outlines the purpose of the proposed gender plan of action. A set of foundational principles are put forward as a basis to guide the implementation of the gender plan of action. The draft outline is framed around a series of expected outcomes, objectives and actions, which are mapped against the draft goals, targets and proposed indicators of the updated zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, with further mapping to demonstrate the coherence with other relevant international commitments. A short rationale is provided to highlight key linkages between the proposed outcomes, objectives and actions of the gender plan and the main themes of the updated zero draft of the post-2020 framework.

**Summary of comments received**

1. A total of 21 submissions[[4]](#footnote-4) were received during the second consultation period, including 11 from Parties and 10 from other relevant stakeholders. Comments largely addressed the formulation of the proposed principles, goals, objectives and actions, including the alignment with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and coherence with other relevant international commitments. Submissions indicated that the proposed overarching goals of the updated draft outline should be aligned with the core objectives of the Convention, and that the terms used in the draft outline (goals, implementation mechanisms) should be changed to avoid confusion with those of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The structure of the draft outline was also seen to be overly complex. Submissions further noted the need for the gender plan to explicitly allocate responsibilities, deliverables, indicators, and timelines to provide clear guidance to Parties and other relevant stakeholders. In respect of alignment with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, submissions highlighted the importance of more comprehensive alignment of the plan with the framework’s goals and targets, and further clarification was requested on how the plan of action’s goals and objectives will support the implementation of the post-2020 framework. Specific text proposals were also provided, including to ensure a reflection of greater gender diversity and intersectionality, and variously to broaden or clarify the scope of principles, goals, objectives and actions. Proposals for additional actions and objectives were put forward, and submissions requested that guidance and examples be provided on possible actions that could be taken by Parties. A number of proposals were received for additional elements for inclusion in the section on “Coherence with relevant international commitments” of the draft outline, with requests to maintain this section in the gender plan of action.
2. With respect to process, one submission noted that there has been no formal agreement by Parties to develop a new gender plan of action, indicating that this needs to be addressed at the formal meeting of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, with agreement needed as to the most effective and efficient approach to developing a new plan. One submission proposed that the gender plan of action be presented for further consideration by Parties at the third meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, as part of the package to be adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Various text proposals were also put forward for inclusion of language related to gender in the goals and targets of the updated zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Vis-à-vis the concerns expressed about the lack of formal COP decision requesting an updated GPA, Canada is comfortable with proceeding with the adoption of the GPA at COP-15 given the importance of the document in guiding a gender responsive implementation of the Post-2020 GBF. Canada should further request that the SBI-3 Chair’s report include a request to send the draft gender plan of action to OEWG-3 so that it can evolve in alignment with the Post-2020 GBF.

Currently decision wording under Agenda item 5 indicates that the COP-15 recommended decision would read as follows:

*Adopts the gender plan of action for the post-2020 period to help implement the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in a gender-responsive manner.*

1. In response to the proposals put forward in these submissions, this version of the draft outline has been reformulated to group the proposed objectives and actions under three expected outcomes, which encompass the objectives previously identified as implementation and review mechanisms. This change is intended to simplify the structure of the plan and to align more directly with the objectives of the Convention, as well as to reduce confusion caused by the use of similar terms to those in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Changes have been made to better reflect the alignment of the objectives of the draft outline with the goals and targets of the post-2020 framework, which are explained in some more depth in a following section of the document. Further, to clarify the linkages between the proposed gender objectives and the draft goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, a short rationale has been added. In order to simplify the table in which the expected outcomes, objectives and actions are identified, the section on coherence with relevant international commitments has been moved to annex I. Two additional sections have been added to the draft outline to identify deliverables and timelines as well as responsible actors. While some suggestions have been put forward for responsible actors for each of the proposed actions, the section on deliverables and timelines has been left blank, to be completed on the basis of further inputs to the draft gender plan of action.

Unclear what the proposed timeline is for further inputs to the draft document especially given the requirement for this to be incorporated into discussions at OEWG-3. Canada should request clarity from the Secretariat in terms of proposed timelines and process for further inputs to the draft gender plan of action.

1. **PURPOSE**
2. ~~The revised draft outline is intended to serve as a basis for a post-2020 gender plan of action, which would serve as the implementation mechanism of the gender elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework~~. As indicated in the updated zero draft, the theory of change of the global biodiversity framework acknowledges the need for appropriate recognition of gender equality, women’s empowerment, and gender-responsive approaches in its implementation. Gender equality, gender‑responsive approaches and empowerment of women and girls are also highlighted as one of the enabling conditions required for the implementation of the framework. The post-2020 gender plan of action should therefore be seen as a means to support the gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The draft expected outcomes, objectives and actions proposed in the draft outline of the gender plan of action are intended to be relevant for the effective implementation of all of the goals and targets of the post‑2020 global biodiversity framework.

Canada should note that the gender plan of action should serve as a tool for Parties to implement the post-2020 GBF in a gender responsive way. This is broader than just focusing on the gender elements of the Post-2020 GBF and about the Post-2020 GBF as a whole (this is noted further down in the paragraph so I would suggest deleting this first contradictory sentence).

1. **Principles**
2. The development of the gender plan of action, its proposed expected outcomes, objectives, and actions, and their intended implementation,[[5]](#footnote-5) are based on the following principles:

(a) Recognizing the links between gender equality, biodiversity, climate change and land degradation, among other environmental concerns, the implementation of the gender plan of action will contribute to maximizing synergies between these areas of work, towards meeting shared objectives;

(b) Recognizing the emphasis on gender equality as a standalone goal and critical cross-cutting component in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, and the indivisibility of these universally adopted goals and targets, the gender plan of action is intended to complement and support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the biodiversity agenda;

(c) Recognizing that ~~women and men and boys and girls~~ people of all genders around the world experience marginalization in different, multiple and intersecting ways depending on their ethnicity, social status, caste, sexual orientation and gender identity, age, and environment, among other factors, and recognizing the structural barriers faced by all those who identify as women and girls ~~women and girls and those who identify as such~~, the implementation of the gender plan of action will take an intersectional approach, prioritizing the needs and interests of all women and girls, with particular attention to those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination ~~the most marginalized.~~ The implementation of the plan will also seek to ensure the engagement of men and boys, to ensure a collaborative and supportive approach towards achieving gender equality in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of genetic resources;

Canada proposes some textual changes above to ensure a more inclusive framing of the gender dimensions of personhood as well as some alternate wording to the identification of marginalized groups. With regards to the proposed alternate wording for “marginalized groups”, Canada believes that this language highlights that it is important to recognize that women and girls often face compounded forms of discrimination, based on multiple and intersecting identity factors, such as age, race, ethnicity, disability, among others. These intersecting forms of discrimination create even more barriers for women and girls, who already face gender-specific inequalities. Furthermore, This is agreed upon language from a number of international texts including UNGA resolution [A/74/L.92](https://undocs.org/A/74/L.92) (Comprehensive and coordinated response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic (PP21); Resolution A/HRC/44/L.21 (Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls) (PP9); and the Agreed Conclusions of Commission on the Statute of Women (CSW65 (E/CN.6/2021/L.3), paras 31, 35.

(d) Recognizing that indigenous women and girls are integrally involved in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and yet continue to face discrimination and remain marginalized in decision-making processes, access and ownership over resources including land, and in the receipt of benefits associated with biodiversity, special provisions will be made, including through targeted action, to ensure the meaningful, informed and effective engagement of indigenous women and girls and to address their needs in implementation of the gender plan of action. This will include the recognition and valuing of indigenous women’s traditional knowledge, innovations, practices, technologies and cultures and their related rights in support of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and in the fair and equitable sharing of benefits;

(e) Recognizing that rural women and girls, including pastoralists, small holder farmers, small-scale fishers, among others, play critical roles in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, yet disproportionately experience poverty and exclusion, and face significant constraints and marginalization in decision-making processes, access and ownership of resources, including land, and in the receipt of benefits,[[6]](#footnote-6) targeted measures are proposed. Special provisions will be made to support the engagement and address the needs of rural women and girls in the implementation of the gender plan of action.

8. It is important to note that, for ease of readability of the document, individual references to indigenous and rural women and girls, and to the diversity of women and girls, are not included in each of the statements put forward in the draft outline (under expected outcomes, objectives, and actions). As indicated in the above principles, it is intended that special provisions be made to support the effective engagement and address the needs of indigenous and rural women and girls, and ~~the most marginalized~~ those women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination in all areas of the final plan. The references to “women and girls” in the expected outcomes, objectives and actions should thus be understood to include all women and girls, including indigenous, rural and those from diverse and marginalized groups.

Canada proposes some textual changes above to reflect alternate wording to the identification of marginalized groups (see additional rational under paragraph c above).

**III. REVISED STRUCTURE OF THE DRAFT OUTLINE**

9. As indicated above, this draft outline has been restructured to contain three expected outcomes, under which are grouped a series of objectives and actions. The expected outcomes and associated objectives are put forward below, with further elements, including proposed actions, provided in the table below.

**Draft expected outcomes**

**Expected outcome 1:** All genders, in particular women and girls, have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to and benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Canada will need to proceed with caution in terms of how this wording evolves to ensure that we remain within the scope of the objectives of the CBD, in particular with reference to the equal provision of benefits. It is not currently within the scope of the CBD to ensure people, regardless of their gender, benefit from Biodiversity.

*Objective 1.1:* ~~Increase women’s access to ownership and control over land, waters and biological resources, including by identifying and removing gender-related barriers.~~ Women have equal access to and control over initiatives that support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Canada should propose alternate wording to ensure a closer alignment with the scope of the objectives of the CBD. The proposed wording is more aligned with Canada’s human rights-based, Feminist approach that aims to address social, political and economic barriers, as well as harmful social norms and cultural practices that prevent women, girls and marginalized groups from securing equal benefits from the sustainable use of natural resources in their communities and participating in decisions on the use of those resources.

*Objective 1.2:* Eliminate, prevent and respond to all forms of gender-based violence in the access to initiatives for the ~~and~~ sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity ~~(including protecting women environmental human rights defenders)~~

Canada is proposing slight edit to the wording to clarify the intent of the paragraph as well as the removal of the wording in brackets to simplify the language of the paragraph.

*Objective 1.3:* Ensure equal access for women to resources, services and technologies to support their governance of initiatives for the~~,~~ conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity ~~(including financial services, credit, training, relevant information and education, among others)~~

Canada is proposing slight edit to the wording to clarify the intent of the paragraph as well as the removal of the wording in brackets to simplify the language of the paragraph.

*Objective 1.4:* Ensure equitable access to and receipt of benefits from initiatives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (~~including~~~~nutrition, food security, livelihoods, health and well-being~~)

Canada is proposing slight edit to the wording to clarify the intent of the paragraph as well as the removal of the wording in brackets to simplify the language of the paragraph, there is a long list of potential benefits from conservation and sustainable use initiatives and it is unnecessary to enumerate them.

~~1.5 Promote women’s economic empowerment including through access to safe, quality and paid formal employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for women and girls in biodiversity-positive supply chains and sectors~~

Canada should suggest the deletion of objective 1.5 and associated actions. Promoting Women’s economic empowerment is not within the scope of the CBD nor is it guaranteed to have a positive impact on biodiversity.

1. \* CBD/SBI/3/1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2020/ntf-2020-055-gender-en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2021/ntf-2021-014-gender-en.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Notification No. [2021-014](https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2021/ntf-2021-014-gender-en.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. These principles are put forward as measures to ensure the effective implementation of the post-2020 gender plan of action. As the plan is intended to enable the gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the principles put forward may also be considered relevant to the implementation of the framework. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. [CEDAW C/GC/34 General recommendation No. 34 on the rights of rural women](https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/1_Global/INT_CEDAW_GEC_7933_E.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)