



CBD Women

Special virtual session for SBSTTA-24 and SBI-03 on biodiversity, One Health and COVID-19

<https://www.cbd.int/conferences/sbstta24-sbi3-prep-02/sbstta-sbi-ss-02/documents>

December 15 - 16, 2020 (7AM - 9AM, Montreal time)
CBD Women Caucus representative : Carmen (Bolivia)

Opening Statement of CBD Women Caucus
Carmen Capriles (Bolivia)

Thank you Chair,

My name is Carmen Capriles, I am from Bolivia and delivering this Statement on behalf of the CBD Women Caucus.

Ensuring social justice and gender equality is one of the essential principles for a biodiversity- inclusive approach to One Health, (referenced in the INFO-1 doc prepared for this virtual session) - we could not agree more.

The gender differential (biological, social, economic) poses unique health risks for men and women during their life cycle. The diverse roles played by women and men create different exposure mechanisms to domestic animals, wildlife and the environment. As well, gender inequalities interact with other inequalities such as ethnicity, socio-economics class and age. Therefore, gender differences need to be addressed to better understand the risks, to help develop effective control and response strategies and to achieve a better impact.

Gender plays a significant role in shaping infectious disease response. In the ongoing pandemic COVID-19, glaring gender disparities are apparent, from the additional burden on women that has impacted all spheres of their lives, from social, cultural, economics besides others. The pandemic has resulted in reports of increased tension contributing to new cases of Gender Based Violence, including many linked with the environment. Health and well being are basic to the enjoyment of other human rights such as education, freedom of speech, free movement, work etc.

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Women are in the frontlines and part of the solution to safeguard biodiversity and One health. They actively defend their lands and territories, they are keepers of traditional knowledge including related to natural medicines and use of biodiversity for protecting communities from diseases, they are nurturers and protectors of the future generation and warriors in the face of the pandemic as primary caretakers of the sick. Despite their contributions, they are not adequately recognised as rights holders and not fully part of decision-making processes .

We encourage Parties to reflect on some of the elements noted in the said document, including the acknowledgement that actions should be mutually supported and that respect for human rights, including of indigenous peoples and local communities and small farmers underpins many of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including for One Health, populations of which are women and girls.

We cannot “Recover and build back better” if we do not not bend the curve of inequality and injustice. The time to ACT is NOW, we hope these aspirations can be pursued within the whole of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Thank you,

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