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VIRTUAL DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT
OUTLINE OF A POST-2020 GENDER PLAN
OF ACTION
Online, 27 and 29 July 2021

REPORT OF THE VIRTUAL DISCUSSION ON THE DRAFT OUTLINE OF A POST-2020 GENDER PLAN OF ACTION 27 AND 29 JULY 2021

INTRODUCTION

1. In decision [14/18](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, subject to availability of resources, to undertake a review of the implementation of the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action.¹ Among other findings, this review ([CBD/SBI/3/2/Add.3](#)) highlighted the value of the 2015-2020 Plan as a policy and advocacy tool, and indicated that a new plan should be developed in a participatory and consultative manner. On this basis and taking into account the extended timeframe before the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties,² the Secretariat initiated a consultation on the development of a new gender plan of action for the post-2020 period. A first consultation was held from 4 to 31 August 2021, and a second consultation on an updated draft outline was held from 2 to 22 March 2021. A revised draft outline of a post-2020 gender plan of action was subsequently developed, drawing on the updated zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, dated 17 August 2020 ([CBD/POST2020/PREP/2/1](#)). It was issued for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation during the virtual formal session of its third meeting, under agenda item 5 concerning the post-2020 global biodiversity framework ([CBD/SBI/3/4/Add.2/Rev.1](#)).

2. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation decided to defer consideration of the draft recommendation on the matter (CBD/SBI/3/CRP.9) in order to allow an additional period of consultation (see [CBD/SBI/3/20](#), paras. 59-60). This extended consultation comprised a virtual discussion and written submissions on the draft outline (see notification 2021-046). The outputs of the consultation are proposed to contribute to the preparation of a draft gender plan of action for the post-2020 period, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting, as envisaged in the draft recommendation developed by the Subsidiary Body.

3. The virtual discussion was held online on Tuesday, 27 July, and Thursday, 29 July 2021, from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. to enable consideration of the following aspects of the draft outline of a post-2020 gender plan of action:

- (a) Views on the purpose of the plan and linkages with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- (b) Views on the proposed expected outcomes and associated objectives;

¹ Decision XII/7, annex.

² Special virtual sessions for twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation were held from 15 to 18 September 2020 (see [CBD/SBSTTA-SBI-SS/1/2](#)). The meetings of the two subsidiary bodies were divided into two parts, the first of which was held online from 3 May to 13 June 2021 (see [CBD/SBSTTA/24/11](#) and [CBD/SBI/3/20](#)). The second part would be held in early 2022.

(c) Views on the actions proposed, including associated deliverables, timelines and responsible actors.

4. The virtual discussion was open to Parties, non-Parties, representatives of major groups, international organizations and observers. A total of 18 Parties and 1 non-Party, or 19 Governments, participated, along with 26 representatives of observer organizations, in an active dialogue over the two days.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE CONSULTATION

5. The virtual discussion on the draft outline of a post-2020 gender plan of action was opened by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, Ms. Charlotta Sörqvist, at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, 27 July 2021. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema also delivered opening remarks.

6. The Executive Secretary proposed Ms. Vienna Pozer (Canada) and Ms. Stella Gama (Malawi), as co-chairs for the extended consultation and virtual discussions. Her proposal was accepted without any objections.

ITEM 2. INTRODUCTORY PRESENTATION

7. It was decided that Ms. Vienna Pozer would preside over the first part of the discussion and Ms. Stella Gama would preside over the second part.

8. Ms. Tanya McGregor, Gender Programme Officer at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, delivered a presentation on the draft outline of a post-2020 gender plan of action, highlighting the findings of the review of the implementation of the 2015-2020 Gender Plan of Action, the preparation of the draft outline, its structure and an overview of the expected outcomes and objectives.

9. The participants in the virtual discussion were invited to consider the guiding questions formulated by the Secretariat to provide: (a) input on the purpose of the plan and linkages with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; (b) the proposed expected outcomes and associated objectives; and (c) views on actions proposed, including associated deliverables, timelines and responsible actors. The floor was opened for Parties to make interventions, followed by representatives of major groups and other observer organizations.

ITEM 3. VIEWS ON THE PURPOSE OF THE GENDER PLAN OF ACTION AND ITS ALIGNMENT WITH THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

10. Under this agenda item, participants shared their views on the purpose of the draft outline of a gender plan of action, including whether the draft outline facilitates and supports the gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and suggestions for revision/improvement.

11. An overview of the key points which emerged from the discussion are presented below.

(a) *Specific comments:*

A precise and concise statement on the purpose of the plan should be included;

(b) *General comments:*

(i) The work of the Secretariat in incorporating previous inputs and improving the draft outline of a post-2020 gender plan of action was appreciated;

(ii) The draft outline was deemed to provide a good basis for a new plan;

(iii) Proposals were raised to strengthen a human rights perspective in the guiding principles and the language of some of the expected outcomes and objectives of the plan;

(iv) The gender plan of action should support the gender-responsive implementation of other implementing mechanisms within the Convention on Biological Diversity, such as the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the strategy for resource mobilization;

- (v) Proposal to incorporate an introductory paragraph which acknowledges gender diversity and provides a justification for the focus on women and girls;
- (vi) More gender inclusive language is needed in the plan;
- (vii) Further review is needed of translations of the Gender Plan of Action;
- (viii) The gender plan of action needs to be closely aligned with the three objectives of the Convention;
- (ix) Proposal for the inclusion of a glossary to clarify terminology;
- (x) A specific target on gender should be included in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

The proposed principles need to be revised in order to be more easily communicable and to be more inclusive.

ITEM 4. VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND ASSOCIATED OBJECTIVES

12. Under this agenda item, participants expressed their views on the proposed expected outcomes and associated objectives.

13. The interventions responded to the guiding questions formulated by the Secretariat on whether the proposed outcomes and objectives were appropriate in purpose and scope, whether they could support a gender-responsive implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, whether there were additional outcomes to be included, and whether any of the proposed outcomes and objectives should be removed.

14. An overview of the key points which emerged from the discussion are presented below.

- (a) *Specific comments:*
 - (i) Questions on terminology revealed a difference of views regarding the use of the terms “equitable”, “equal” and “equitable and fair”, and questions around the meaning of the term “biodiversity-positive supply chain”;
 - (ii) Proposal for a new objective on education and science;
- (b) *General comments:*
 - (i) Simplification of the language of some of the objectives was requested;
 - (ii) Proposals were made on the reorientation of objectives under different expected outcomes.

ITEM 5. VIEWS ON THE PROPOSED ACTIONS, INCLUDING ASSOCIATED DELIVERABLES, TIMELINES AND RESPONSIBLE ACTORS

15. Under this agenda item, participants expressed their views on the purpose and scope of the proposed actions, whether they support effective gender-responsive implementation, areas for revision, and types of deliverables and timelines.

16. An overview of key points which emerged from the discussion are presented below.

- (a) *Specific comments:*
 - (i) There is a need for specific actions, including SMART actions, which are linked to a result or deliverable;
 - (ii) The inclusion of specific deliverables is requested in order to enable the achievement of the objectives of the draft gender plan of action;

- (iii) Suggested emulation of the Gender Action Plan under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change³ and the way in which actions are formulated, with clear timelines and designation of milestones;
- (b) *General comments:*
 - (i) Ambition needs to be balanced with implementability – there is a need to further specify and ensure the feasibility of actions to be undertaken by Parties, observers and the Secretariat, to support effective implementation;
 - (ii) Measurable outcomes are needed;
 - (iii) Gender indicators need to be incorporated into the global biodiversity framework;
 - (iv) Joint/collaborative actions with Rio conventions are suggested.

ITEM 6. CLOSING OF THE CONSULTATION

17. Following closing remarks from the Co-Chairs and the Secretariat, the virtual discussion closed at 10 a.m. on Thursday, 29 July 2021.

³ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twenty-fifth session, held in Madrid from 2 to 15 December 2019*, Decision 3/CP.25.