



**CBD Informal SBI3 Virtual Session
8-12 and 13 March, 2021**

March 10, 2021

Agenda Item 7. Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management, and communication

Statement of the CBD Women's Caucus

Thank you Chair. I am speaking on behalf of the CBD Women Caucus.

When speaking of capacity development, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and knowledge management, we must appreciate the unique experiences of people across the world, as well as recognise that the expertise within the field of biodiversity conservation and use takes many forms.

As recognised throughout the framework of the CBD, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, including women specifically, are holders of ecological knowledge central to the enabling of harmonious relationships with the environment. Across the world these knowledges are intricately tied to unique cultures and practices, whose recognition, protection, and respect is important for the safeguarding of healthy ecosystems and the world's biodiversity.

In order to achieve systemic and transformative change, as called for in the IPBES Global Assessment, it's absolutely central to bring in the expertise of these actors into decision-making processes, as well as their perspectives and experiences, while actions remain in accordance with cultural codes and uphold rules of Free Prior and Informed Consent. Similarly, the implementation of policies must be rigorous, inclusive, sensitive to gender concerns and other forms of societal inequalities, and uphold high standards of ethics.

We are pleased to see the Guiding Principles of the Draft Recommendations in relation to Capacity Development, Technical and Scientific Cooperation and Technology Transfer, state that "*gender perspectives should be fully integrated into biodiversity capacity development efforts*".

We are also encouraged that the **Draft long-term strategic framework for capacity-development to support implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework**, includes a ***Guiding Principle on Gender Perspectives***. Here, we want to stress the importance of recognising the unique role of women as actors and holders of unique ecological knowledges, and highlight that in many places around the world, women are currently, and will continue to lead the way towards transformative change. In this regard, we want to remind participants that the empowerment of women is intricately tied to the recognition of their rights and the strengthening of their access to secure tenure. It's linked to the recognition of their unique ecological knowledges



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as valuable, with them being identified as important actors in decision-making as opposed to passive recipients of pre-determined decisions and policies. The equitable distribution of financial resources is also important for ensuring the empowerment of women in implementation.

Regarding the document on **knowledge management** for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, we are **pleased to see womens' knowledge recognised in Annex 1**.

However, we believe it is important to reference the need for ethics in the sharing, exchange and use of diverse knowledges, including the respect of cultural codes and appreciation for the place-based nature of many of these knowledge systems. We also want to stress the importance of actors respecting the Free Prior and Informed Consent of knowledge holders. We would also like to see references to the need of protecting these knoweldge-systems, which are currently at risk due to unsustainable practices, and the failure of States and other key actors in recognising and respecting the rights of women, youth and Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

With regards to the **Evaluation of the Strategic Framework on Capacity-building to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol**, we are pleased to see the consideration of gender consideration within the *Key recommendations of the Executive Summary*.

Here, we would like to stress the importance of ensuring the inclusion of an indicator linked to gender within the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. We also feel that women's unique ecological knowledge, innovations and practices, as well as their important role in biodiversity protection, should be reflected more when speaking of relevant knowledges in actors in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

Thank you, Chair