

Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

21 October–1 November 2024 - Cali, Colombia

Item 20: Marine and coastal biodiversity, and island biodiversity

Thank you, Chair

I am speaking on behalf of the CBD Women's Caucus.

We want to highlight the crucial role of small-scale fisheries as committed guardians of marine and coastal biodiversity and the traditional knowledge they hold. These local fishers, through their deep understanding of the ecosystems they rely on, play a vital part in sustainable resource management.

However, we want to express our concern about the lack of guidance and tools available under the programmes of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and on island biodiversity, especially those related to the linkages between the ocean, gender equality and human rights.

We are deeply concerned about the marine geoengineering techniques that could have irreversible deleterious impacts, and we strongly demand to take a precautionary approach to those actions, and protect those pristine environments.

In this regard, we suggest the following text modifications to the document CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1 on *Item 20* “**Conservation and sustainable use...**

In the Annex “Gaps and areas in need...” to add :

“Recognizing small-scale fisheries as capable and committed guardians of marine and coastal biodiversity and the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication as a way requirement to comply with a human rights based approach to marine conservation”

In 2 (a), after “focus on”, to add **“land use planning by watersheds for the sustainable management of inland waters and”**

- Add a 9 bis

To improve the understanding of the risks and take a precaution approach around deep sea mining and marine geoengineering techniques that will cause irreversible impacts on the marine environment



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The CBD Women's Caucus (CBD WC) serves as the recognized women's constituency within the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It stands as a self-organised global platform, supporting women and girls worldwide to advocate for their rights within biodiversity-related decision-making processes across all levels.

To find out more about the CBD WC visit <https://cbd womenscaucus.org>