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Subsidiary Body on Implementation

Sixth meeting

Rome, 16–19 February 2026

Agenda Item 3.b Financial mechanism

Thank you, Chair

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

Biodiversity finance must not deepen existing inequalities through debt, market-based mechanisms resulting in offsetting, or private-sector-driven instruments that transfer risks to communities. Grant-based, trust-based, predictable and accessible public and private finance remains essential for gender-just and human rights-based implementation of the Framework.

- On Annex 1 **“Terms of reference for a full assessment of the amount of funds needed”**:

Funding needs beyond 2030 should clearly identify the estimated resources needed for gender-related mandates, including a clear amount of funding needed for the Gender Plan of Action beyond 2030. As shown in the Secretariat analysis of NBSAPs (T23) (2026) as well as the last two Gender Plan of Actions' reviews, one of the main challenges for its implementation is the lack of funding.

The assessment on biodiversity finance needs should include the needs of different actors, as well as the contributions that they are delivering to the implementation of agreed biodiversity goals and targets. Regarding women, including women from Indigenous peoples and local communities, their roles and contributions should be clearly assessed.

- On Annex 2 **“Terms of reference for the seventh quadrennial review”**:

The effectiveness of the financial mechanism must be assessed not only by disbursement volumes, but by its impacts on biodiversity conservation, including gender-differentiated and human rights impacts.

Women, including women from Indigenous and local communities, are not only stakeholders but key agents of biodiversity conservation. Financial mechanisms must ensure direct access to funding and simplified due diligence for women-led and community-based initiatives, rather than relying exclusively on intermediaries.

Regarding paragraph 8.d of Annex II: These efforts should not only be special but strategic and should always include assessment on the impacts on their rights, as well as their involvement -or at least- consultation on how these actors contribute to the development of surveys and other means of collecting information that should inform decision making regarding the seventh quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism.

- On Annex 3 **“Additional guidance”**:

As drafted, the “additional guidance” to the GEF simply repeats Target 23 without telling the Facility what it should do differently in its programming, budgets, or requirements. Our proposal (new paragraph) translates Target 23 into concrete instructions already agreed by Parties under Decision 15/11 (Gender Plan of Action - Objective 3.6 where GEF is the main responsible), calling for targeted funding lines, project requirements, and monitoring to enable real gender-responsive implementation on the ground.

In this regard, we propose the following textual adjustments to document [CBD/SBI/6/3](#):

In the “Recommendations” section:

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to availability of resources:

- (c) To further strengthen collaboration and engagement with financial institutions and stakeholders, especially those recognized by the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, in order to accelerate the implementation of the Framework **while ensuring transparency, accountability, and alignment with gender equality and human rights**;

In Annex 1 “Terms of reference for a full assessment of the amount of funds needed...”:

3. The funding needs assessment should take into account:

- (i) Other relevant estimations, **including the costs of implementing the Gender Plan of Action**.

8. The national platform should build upon the action and cooperation of all levels of government and all actors of society, **including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth organisations**, guided by the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

In Annex 2 “Terms of reference for the seventh quadrennial review...”:

1. In accordance with paragraph 3 of Article 21 of the Convention on Biological Diversity..., effectiveness will include:

- (c) The efficiency of the financial mechanism in providing financial resources as well as, in accordance with the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, overseeing, monitoring and evaluating the activities financed by its resources, **including their social, gender and equity-related outcomes and impacts**, as appropriate;

3. The review shall draw upon, inter alia, the following sources of information:

- (e) Information provided by indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth and relevant stakeholders related to projects funded by the Global Environment Facility, as well as their views on possible impacts on their rights, **and documented evidence and assessments of impacts on their rights, including gender-differentiated impacts**;

5. The assessment should include a comparison of the Global Environment Facility with the financial mechanisms of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund and the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage. Elements for consideration should include: contributor base; legal nature; funding modalities and financial performance; criteria and process for funding, including project cycle considerations; access and disbursement modalities (e.g. direct allocation or project-based disbursement), including for

indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth; governance, including board composition and trustee arrangements; **representation and participation of relevant stakeholders in governing bodies, including the existence of formal seats for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth**; relationship between the governing body of the fund and the conference of the parties to the respective multilateral environmental agreement; transparency, monitoring, reporting and evaluation; accreditation process and role of implementing agencies; cost-effectiveness of operations; and cost of setting up and running the financial instrument.

8. Special efforts should be made to collect the views of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, **including as well as information on possible impacts on their rights, as well as their involvement to contribute to the development of surveys and other means of collecting information.**

11. Based on the synthesis report and recommendations of the independent evaluator, the Executive Secretary will prepare, ~~in consultation with the Global Environment Facility~~, a draft decision on the seventh quadrennial review of the financial mechanism, including specific suggestions for action to improve the effectiveness of the mechanism, ~~if necessary~~, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, with its recommendations to be provided to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting.

In Annex 3 “Additional guidance...”:

Target 23

~~10. The Global Environment Facility should provide support to eligible Parties to enable them to implement the Framework through a gender-responsive approach, whereby all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.~~

10. **Requests the Global Environment Facility, to establish clear programming directions and targeted funding programmes or budget lines, consistent with Objective 3.6 of the Gender Plan of Action (COP/15/11), to support gender-responsive implementation of the global biodiversity framework and the gender plan of action;**

We would like to ask Parties for support.

Thank you.

The CBD Women's Caucus (CBD WC) is the 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. For more information: coordination@cbd womenscaucus.org