



Policy Recommendations

SBI-6

This Compilation of Recommendations brings together the CBD Women's Caucus' key reflections and priority textual recommendations for the agenda items under consideration at the CBD Subsidiary Body on Implementation — Sixth meeting (Rome, 16–19 February 2026). They are offered in a constructive spirit to support Parties in ensuring that implementation of the KM-GBF is coherent with Section C, Target 23 and the Gender Plan of Action, through gender-responsive and human rights-based approaches across policy, finance, planning, cooperation and institutional arrangements. Each section provides a concise overview of the issue and three ready-to-use textual proposals, with links to fuller explanations and additional drafting.

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

For more information: coordination@cbd womenscaucus.org



Agenda Item 3.a Resource mobilization

Key message

Resource mobilization under the KM-GBF must be implemented in full coherence with Section C through a gender-responsive and human rights-based approach. With clear operational safeguards, attention to debt justice, and transparent tracking of who benefits from biodiversity finance, financial flows risk reinforcing the same inequities and extractive dynamics the Framework seeks to transform. This includes critically assessing the implications of innovative financial instruments, ensuring that safeguards, participation, and accountability are treated as core components of biodiversity finance rather than technical add-ons, and ensuring that alignment between biodiversity and climate finance advances a just transition grounded in the rights, knowledge and leadership of women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

In the “Recommendations” section:

5. *Invites* Parties and other Governments, in line with section C of the Framework, and in particular with the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities, **women, youth** and relevant stakeholders:

(a) To assess how debt dynamics, **including debt servicing obligations and conditionalities**, affect the capacity to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans **including potential social and gender-differentiated impacts** and how it can be addressed in national biodiversity finance plans or other relevant planning frameworks, **including through debt relief or cancellation measures**;

7. ~~Invites~~ **Urges** Parties, and **invites** other Governments, business organizations and other stakeholders, as well as national, regional and international development banks and other financial institutions, to take the voluntary guidelines on safeguards in biodiversity financing mechanisms into account when selecting, designing and implementing biodiversity financing mechanisms and when developing instrument-specific safeguards for them, with a view to harnessing their positive effects in an effective manner and to avoiding or mitigating negative effects, including gender-differentiated impacts and risks, and in particular:

(b) To provide capacity-building and the requisite financial support for technical assistance **and training, including on gender analysis and women's rights**, to relevant institutions and actors, in line with national circumstances and priorities, as well as for indigenous peoples and local communities, for strengthening the application of safeguards standards;

8. Also **urges** ~~invites~~ Parties, **and invites** other Governments, business organizations and other stakeholders, as well as national, regional and international development banks and other financial institutions, to continue to optimize the co-benefits and synergies of biodiversity and climate finance, **ensuring consistency with human rights obligations in line with section C of the Framework, by:**

 [Full rationale and additional textual proposals here](#)

Agenda Item 3.b Financial mechanism

Key message

The effectiveness of the financial mechanism must be understood not only in terms of volumes of disbursement, but in terms of its impacts on biodiversity, gender equality and human rights. Grant-based, predictable and accessible public finance remains essential to avoid deepening inequalities through debt, offsets and market-based instruments that transfer risks to communities. The current review processes under the financial mechanism provide an important opportunity to explicitly assess funding needs related to the Gender Plan of Action, recognise the roles and contributions of women — including women from Indigenous Peoples and local communities — and ensure that financial flows, access modalities and GEF guidance translate Target 23 into concrete programming, budgetary and monitoring requirements.

In the “Recommendations” section:

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.**

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;

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 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;



Full rationale and additional textual proposals [here](#)



Agenda Item 4. Planning, monitoring, reporting and review: update on national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national targets and national reporting

Key message

Current NBSAPs and national targets continue to lack sufficient detail on gender equality, and on the rights, contributions and leadership of women and girls and other rights holders. Gender-responsive planning, monitoring, reporting and review are essential for effective and equitable implementation of the KM-GBF. Ensuring the full, meaningful and informed participation of women and other rights holders at all stages — including in preparation of the seventh national reports — supported by adequate financial and technical resources, is fundamental to strengthening accountability and achieving the Framework's ambition. The findings of the mid-term review of the Gender Plan of Action should directly inform both national reporting processes and the Global Review.

Top 3 textual proposals

In the "Recommendations" section:

2.Urges-Encourages Parties that have not yet done so to submit their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and their national targets as soon as possible,

2.bis Also urges Parties to develop and revise their strategies and actions plans, and national targets through inclusive,gender-responsive processes of consultation, with the full, effective, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and representation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and girls, youth and persons with disabilities, and other relevant stakeholders;

3.bis Encourages Parties to also include in their seventh national reports quality information on how non-state actors, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, youth and other stakeholders have been engaged, their contributions to the implementation of the KM-GBF, and how Section C has been considered.

 [Full rationale and additional textual proposals here](#)



Agenda Item 5. Midterm review of the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action 2023–2030

Key message

The mid-term review highlights important progress but also reveals persistent data gaps, participation barriers and resource constraints that limit effective implementation of the Gender Plan of Action (GPA). To ensure accountability through 2030, it will be essential to plan for a comprehensive, evidence-based end-of-term assessment linked to the global review of the eighth national reports at COP-19. The adopted indicator on national implementation of the GPA offers an immediate opportunity to strengthen monitoring through NBSAPs and national targets. At the same time, formal recognition of the CBD Women's Caucus can help address persistent barriers faced by women's organisations in engaging with GPA processes, and additional resources are needed to enable the Secretariat to fully implement its GPA mandate.

Top 3 textual proposals

In the "Recommendations" section:

The Conference of the Parties

1. **bis Welcomes actions and initiatives undertaken by Parties, CBD Women's Caucus, other women's groups and stakeholders to promote and support the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action.**

2. (d) **Promoting the Allocating** ~~on~~ of adequate, **accessible and timely financial and technical resources for and women-led initiatives especially among indigenous peoples and local communities and** strengthening institutional capacity **for an effective** gender-responsive implementation of the Plan of Action including through targeted support for women-led initiatives, especially among indigenous peoples and local communities **including the role of Gender and Biodiversity National focal points.**

3. **bis Requests the Executive Secretary to conduct a systematic and comprehensive end-of-term assessment of the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action, to be integrated with the global review of Eighth National Reports at COP19.**

 [Full rationale and additional textual proposals here](#)

Agenda Item 6. Capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation

Key message

Capacity-building, knowledge management and technical and scientific cooperation are central to implementation of the KM-GBF, yet women's participation in these processes often remains symbolic rather than structural. Meaningful inclusion requires women's involvement in the co-design, implementation, monitoring and learning frameworks of the Long-Term Strategic Framework for Capacity-Building and Development and the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism. References to "gender" and "equality" must be accompanied by clear measures, indicators, resources and accountability, supported by gender analysis and disaggregated data in line with the Gender Plan of Action. Gap analyses and monitoring frameworks should adopt a target-by-target and regionally disaggregated approach, while also addressing the systemic barriers — institutional, financial, territorial, cultural and temporal — that limit women's effective and sustained participation and leadership.

Top 3 textual proposals

In the "Recommendations" section:

3. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, **including indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth**, to collaborate with the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and relevant partners in the assessment and analysis of capacity needs and gaps at the **subnational**, national and subregional levels **and to organize multi-stakeholder consultations to validate the assessment results**;

4. *Urges* Parties to provide in their national reports and their responses to the assessments by the technical and scientific cooperation support centres and relevant partners detailed information **including sex- disaggregated data and a specific analysis of the capacity needs of women, Indigenous peoples and local communities and youth** on specific technological, technical and institutional capacity needs and gaps related to the implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and of the Framework;

5. *Requests* the global coordination entity, in collaboration with the Secretariat and the Informal Advisory Group, to provide guidelines and support to strengthen the capacity of the technical and scientific cooperation support centres to design and conduct future capacity needs assessments in a harmonized manner; **that systematically integrate a human rights-based approach and align with the KMGBF**.

[Full rationale and additional textual proposals here](#)

Agenda Item 7. Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations

Key message

Cooperation and synergies across conventions and organizations are essential for achieving the KM-GBF, yet the current draft gives limited attention to how such cooperation can advance gender equality and human rights. There is an important opportunity, particularly under paragraph 10(a) and (b), to encourage analysis of the synergistic implementation of the Gender Action Plans across the three Rio Conventions, strengthen collaboration between gender focal points, and reflect existing joint work with UN Women. Cooperation should also extend beyond environmental institutions to sectors such as finance and business, culture and creative industries, and knowledge and education, while improving the use of gender-disaggregated data to enhance accountability across frameworks.

Top 3 textual proposals

In the “Recommendations” section:

8.bis Notes with appreciation the briefing note prepared by the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on applying a human rights-based approach in line with Section C of the Kunming Montreal Biodiversity Framework;

8. Invites Parties and other Governments to continue to strengthen national cooperation and coordination among the national **and thematic** focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, the national **and thematic** focal points of other conventions and processes relevant to the implementation of the Framework and other relevant stakeholders in the development of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the preparation of their national reports, in line with national priorities and circumstances;

9.bis Invites Parties, relevant conventions and relevant organizations to strengthen the production, analysis, dissemination and sharing of data and statistics on the synergetic implementation across multilateral environmental agreements, including among the Rio Conventions, appropriately disaggregated, including by sex/gender, to ensure implementation of the convention leaves no one behind while enhancing accountability for results against all goals and targets of the Framework;

 **Full rationale and additional textual proposals [here](#).**

Agenda Item 8. Specialized international access and benefit-sharing instruments in the context of Article 4, paragraph 4, of the Nagoya Protocol.

Key message

Article 4(4) of the Nagoya Protocol is intended to enhance legal clarity and coherence, not to dilute the core obligations related to fair and equitable benefit-sharing. Any approach to recognising specialized international ABS instruments must therefore remain firmly anchored in these objectives, including respect for customary laws and community governance systems and the protection of the rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including women. Given women's central role as holders and transmitters of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, the indicative criteria should establish clear minimum standards for gender-responsive benefit sharing, meaningful participation and accountability.

Top 3 textual proposals

In the "Recommendations" section:

3. Requests the Executive Secretary:

(a) To invite Parties, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth and other stakeholders to submit additional views and proposals on the options for recognizing specialized international access and benefit-sharing instruments and the indicative criteria to determine the status of or recognize those instruments contained in sections I and II,...

(b) To hold informal technical webinars aimed at supporting Parties, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth, and other stakeholders in progressing towards convergence on options for the recognition of specialized international access and benefit-sharing instruments under paragraph 4 of Article 4 of the Nagoya Protocol;

In the Annex "Proposed indicative criteria..."

4. Indicative criteria for recognition include:

(d) Fair and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms; including gender-responsive monetary and non-monetary benefits that support women's livelihoods, knowledge systems, capacity-building and community wellbeing;

(d)bis Appropriate access to DSI as well as fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of DSI of Genetic Resources

(e) The effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities; including specific measures to ensure the full, effective and meaningful participation of women within those communities

(f) Transparency, gender-responsive monitoring and accountability provisions;

[Full rationale and additional textual proposals here](#)

Agenda Item 9. Options for improving the effectiveness of meetings under the Convention and its Protocols

Key message

Efforts to improve the effectiveness of meetings must balance efficiency with inclusive and gender-just participation. Streamlined procedures and compressed timelines should not come at the expense of the meaningful engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, youth and under-resourced delegations. Clear procedures, timely information, and targeted support — including for online and hybrid modalities — are essential to ensure equitable participation. Safeguards are also needed to ensure that efficiency measures do not inadvertently marginalize issues central to gender equality and human rights or limit fair negotiation processes.

Top 3 textual proposals

In the “Recommendations” section:

40. The Subsidiary Body may wish to adopt a recommendation along the following lines:

5.bis Recommends that all measures to improve effectiveness, including online and hybrid tools, targeted capacity-building as well as preparatory support, ensure that women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities can effectively, equitably, and meaningfully participate in the decision-making process.

7. (b) To further invite submissions from Parties and stakeholders **including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth** on options to further improve the effectiveness of meetings under the Convention and its Protocols and to make the submissions available for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

41. The Subsidiary Body may also wish to adopt a recommendation along the following lines:

6. *Reiterates* its call upon developed country Parties to increase their contributions to the relevant voluntary trust funds to ensure the full and effective participation of representatives of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, in the concurrent meetings, as well as of representatives of indigenous and local communities, **women and youth**, in meetings held under the Convention and its Protocols;

42. The Subsidiary Body may further wish to adopt a recommendation along the following lines:

6.*Reiterates* its call upon developed country Parties to increase their contributions to the relevant voluntary trust funds to ensure the full and effective participation of representatives of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, as well as representatives of indigenous and local communities, **women and youth**, in meetings held under the Convention and its Protocols;

[Full rationale and additional textual proposals here](#)

Agenda Item 10. Administrative and budgetary matters: Functional review of the Secretariat

Key message

The functional review presents a critical opportunity to ensure that the Secretariat's new structure is fully aligned with the KM-GBF, including Section C and Targets 22 and 23. As functions are consolidated under new divisions and governance arrangements, there is a strategic moment to embed gender equality and a human rights-based approach transversally across programmatic, technical, monitoring, partnership and resource mobilization functions. Clear institutional responsibility, accountability through business process ownership, and adequate staffing are essential to ensure this integration. In this context, implementation of Decision XII/7 on a full-time Gender Programme Officer with dedicated resources remains central to achieving coherent, gender-responsive delivery across the Secretariat.

Top 3 textual proposals

In the "Recommendations" section:

The Conference of the Parties

2.bis Recalls decision XII/7 on the establishment of a full-time Gender Programme Officer with dedicated budget and no additional responsibilities, and requests that this be fully reflected in the implementation of the updated organizational structure of the Secretariat.

4. (a) To continue to implement the remaining short- and medium-term actions, as well as long-term actions, recommended in the functional review, **including the resources required to effectively implement the Gender Plan of Action across the Secretariat**, in line with the approved Secretariat staffing requirements from the core budgets of the Convention and its Protocols for the period 2027–2028;

4. (c) To keep the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties informed of progress in implementing the remaining actions recommended in the functional review, **in a manner consistent with the Gender Plan of Action, and a human rights-based approach**;

4. **(d) To ensure that, within the designation of cross-Secretariat business process owners, clear responsibility is assigned for the integration, monitoring and reporting of gender equality and human rights-based approaches across these functions, in line with the Gender Plan of Action and Targets 22 and 23 of the KM-GBF.**

 [Full rationale and additional textual proposals here](#)