



# CBD SBI 6 Outcomes

## A CBD Women's Caucus Analysis

This document provides a policy analysis of the outcomes of the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-6) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Rome from 16–19 February 2026. The meeting constituted an important step in assessing progress toward implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) and the CBD Gender Plan of Action (2023 - 2030), as well as in preparing recommendations to be considered at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP17).

For each agenda item, the analysis summarises the policy context, highlights what was achieved in the negotiations, identifies elements that remain unresolved or were weakened during discussions, and outlines possible next steps toward COP17.

The analysis has been prepared by the CBD Women's Caucus, the women's major group under the Convention on Biological Diversity, which brings together women's organisations and gender justice experts and advocates engaged in biodiversity policy and implementation processes.

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## ITEM 3.A RESOURCE MOBILISATION

### WHAT WAS THE ITEM ABOUT?

This agenda item addressed the implementation of Decision 16/34 on resource mobilisation, focusing on advancing the roadmap to close the global biodiversity finance gap by 2030 in support of Target 19 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The main discussion at SBI-6 centred on the review of three technical studies requested under the resource mobilisation roadmap, covering biodiversity finance safeguards, the biodiversity–climate finance nexus, and debt sustainability. However, as these studies were only circulated a few days before the meeting, many Parties indicated they had not had sufficient time to review them, and much of the discussion focused on procedural concerns rather than substantive negotiations.

### WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?

Parties agreed to continue advancing the resource mobilisation roadmap as the main process leading to COP17 to improve the predictability, adequacy and timeliness of biodiversity finance. Support was expressed for convening a High-Level Dialogue on resource mobilisation, bringing together Ministers of Environment and Finance to accelerate progress toward Target 19. Progress was also made in strengthening knowledge exchange through the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM), including the development of a platform to share best practices and lessons learned related to biodiversity finance and implementation of the KM-GBF, particularly in relation to Targets 14, 15, 18 and 19.

### WHAT WAS NOT ACHIEVED OR REVERSED?

Due to the late circulation of the technical studies, many Parties indicated they were not in a position to endorse conclusions or recommendations based on the documents. As a result, substantive discussions on safeguards in biodiversity finance, debt sustainability, and the biodiversity–climate finance nexus were largely postponed. Negotiations also reflected continued political sensitivities around broadening the contributor base for biodiversity finance, which remains under discussion.

The CBD Women's Caucus raised additional concerns regarding the lack of direct access to funding for grassroots and women-led organisations, the absence of sex-disaggregated financial reporting, and the need for strong social and environmental safeguards in emerging financial instruments such as biodiversity credits and green bonds. These concerns were not formally taken up in the negotiated outcomes.

### WHAT IS NEXT?

Discussions on resource mobilisation will continue at SBI-7, where the Secretariat is expected to present a consolidated analysis based on the seventh national reports submitted in February 2026 as well as updated versions of the technical studies.

Given that several roadmap elements were deferred, SBI-7 is expected to address a significantly broader set of resource mobilisation issues, which will inform decisions at COP17 in Yerevan.

From a gender perspective, upcoming discussions will provide an opportunity to further advance gender-responsive biodiversity finance, including stronger integration of the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030) within national biodiversity financing strategies and improved tracking of financial flows supporting gender equality objectives under the KM-GBF.

## ITEM 3.B FINANCIAL MECHANISM

### WHAT WAS THE ITEM ABOUT?

This agenda item addressed issues related to the financial mechanism of the Convention, particularly in preparation for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund for the period July 2026 to June 2030 (GEF-9). Discussions included reporting on the amount of funding required to support implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), including inputs from biodiversity-related conventions to inform programming directions and policy recommendations for the GEF-9 negotiations.

Parties also discussed and agreed on the terms of reference for two future processes: the seventh quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism, to be considered by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and COP17 before a final determination at COP18; and the assessment of funding needs for the replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund for the period July 2030 to June 2034 (GEF-10).

Within the draft recommendation and the terms of reference for the seventh quadrennial review, references to women were included as potential providers of information related to projects funded by the GEF and their possible impacts on rights and livelihoods. The criteria for assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of the GEF also include examining trends in project financing targeted at or led by women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

### WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?

According to document CBD/SBI/6/L.9, the negotiated text includes several provisions recognising gender considerations in the evaluation of the financial mechanism, although some paragraphs remain bracketed.

Women are invited to contribute to and participate in the seventh quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the GEF. The methodology for the review foresees the inclusion of information provided by women regarding projects funded through the GEF Trust Fund and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, including their perspectives on possible impacts on their rights. The Executive Secretary is also requested to facilitate the effective participation of women in the implementation of the terms of reference for the review.

The methodology further includes the use of documented evidence and assessments of gender-differentiated impacts. In addition, the review will examine trends in funding directed to Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth in support of the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols.

The recommendation also refers to improving access modalities to financial resources and strengthening collaboration with financial institutions and stakeholders, including those recognised by the GEF, the Green Climate Fund and the OECD. While references to direct access remain bracketed, the paragraph highlights the importance of ensuring transparency, accountability, gender justice and respect for human rights in the deployment of financial resources.

Finally, the terms of reference for the assessment of funding needs for GEF-10 include language encouraging participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth organisations through national consultation platforms, using a whole-of-society approach and, where appropriate, a human rights-based approach. The text also includes references to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund.





## WHAT WAS NOT ACHIEVED OR REVERSED?

The negotiated text does not include explicit references linking the financial mechanism to implementation of the Gender Plan of Action. Proposals aimed at strengthening this connection—including suggestions to encourage the establishment of targeted funding programmes or budget lines supporting gender-responsive implementation—were linked to Annex III of the draft decision. However, Annex III was removed from the negotiation text after it had been circulated as a non-paper and conference room paper. In addition, while references to improving access modalities remain in the recommendation, the language on direct access remains bracketed and may primarily be interpreted as relating to access modalities for developing country Parties rather than for specific groups such as Indigenous Peoples and local communities, youth or women-led initiatives. Finally, references to financial resources in the recommendation focus primarily on supporting implementation of the KM-GBF, while explicit references to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols are not clearly reflected in the paragraphs related to access modalities.

## WHAT IS NEXT?

The Secretariat is expected to issue calls for information to support the seventh quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the GEF. This process may provide opportunities to contribute information regarding women's participation in GEF-funded projects and the gender-differentiated impacts of biodiversity finance. As the seventh quadrennial review will ultimately be adopted at COP18, discussions related to the effectiveness of the financial mechanism will extend beyond COP17, offering additional opportunities to strengthen the integration of gender considerations within biodiversity finance discussions under the Convention.

## ITEM 4. PLANNING, MONITORING, REPORTING AND REVIEW: UPDATE ON NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS, NATIONAL TARGETS AND NATIONAL REPORTING

### WHAT WAS THE ITEM ABOUT?

This agenda item was an update by the Secretariat on national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), national targets (NTs), and national reporting under the KM-GBF. The draft recommendation primarily encourages Parties to submit their revised NBSAPs and national targets as soon as possible and to provide their Seventh National Reports by the deadline of 28 February 2026. The recommendation itself is not intended to be forwarded as a draft decision to COP17 as the information contained is part of the ongoing process of Global Report development. The information contained in the note, indicate that the NBSAPs and national targets submitted so far indicate that the collective level of ambition remains below the level required to halt and reverse biodiversity loss, as envisioned in the Framework. In addition, many Parties have not yet submitted optional information describing how Section C of the Framework was considered in the formulation of national targets or how non-state actors (NSAs) were engaged in the development of NBSAPs.

## WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?

Discussions during the first and second readings highlighted several challenges that are affecting the timely submission of national reports and updated NBSAPs. In particular, a number of developing country Parties indicated that delays in the disbursement of financial resources, combined with capacity and technical gaps — especially related to monitoring systems — have constrained their ability to meet reporting deadlines. This has broader implications for the representativeness and completeness of information available for the Global Report, which relies on national reports as its primary source of information. The agreed L-document acknowledged these challenges and encourages Parties to continue efforts to submit their reports on time.

The recommendation also reaffirms the importance of inclusive processes, referring to language from Decision 15/6, and encourages Parties to provide optional information on how Section C of the Framework was considered in the formulation of national targets. Such information is important for ensuring a meaningful Global Review of collective progress in the implementation of the KM-GBF. In addition, submissions by non-state actors are encouraged by the same deadline of 28 February.

## WHAT WAS NOT ACHIEVED OR REVERSED?

During the initial stages of negotiations, language emphasising the importance of inclusive processes, including gender-responsive and participatory processes, for the preparation of both NBSAPs and national reports was missing. However, The inclusion of reference to Decision 15/6 — and its language on inclusion and GPA — partially compensated for the gap during the consideration of the conference room paper. More specific recognition of the inclusion of women and gender-responsive processes in the preparation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and national reports needs to be considered and encouraged in further recommendations.

## WHAT IS NEXT?

The Global Report will rely primarily on Seventh National Reports as its main source of information, complemented by submissions from non-state actors and other sources in accordance with Decision 16/32. The consultation on the first draft of the Global Report is expected to take place in June 2026. The inclusion of key cross-cutting considerations, including — including the implementation of Target 23 and the Gender Plan of Action need to be assessed.

## ITEM 5. GENDER PLAN OF ACTION

### WHAT WAS THE ITEM ABOUT?

This agenda item addressed the mid-term review of the Gender Plan of Action (GPA) adopted under Decision 15/11 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its role to ensure a gender responsive implementation of the GBF and also Target 23 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The review, based on only 14 Parties' submissions and 20 observers, examined progress in the implementation of the GPA, including reporting and monitoring frameworks, the status of indicative actions assigned to the Secretariat, participation of women and women's organisations in biodiversity processes, and gaps in resource mobilisation for gender-responsive biodiversity action.





## WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?

The final version of the negotiation document includes the call for a final review of the Gender Plan of Action to be undertaken including explicit assessment of progress of its objectives and indicative actions, identify lessons learned and consider next steps. This final review will be considered by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation prior to COP19 and is expected to contribute to the broader global review of implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The outcome text, reflecting the strong standing of champion Parties whose early submissions and interventions turned around the draft, also encourages Parties to promote gender-responsive approaches across biodiversity-related policies and processes and highlights the importance of strengthening sex- and age-disaggregated data and gender indicators. In particular, the decision encourages the use of the component indicator on national implementation of the Gender Plan of Action within national monitoring frameworks. In addition, the recommendation refers to the need for adequate and accessible resources and highlights the importance of strengthening institutional capacity to support gender-responsive and rights-based biodiversity implementation.

## WHAT WAS NOT ACHIEVED OR REVERSED?

During the negotiations, several attempts were made by the Caucus to strengthen accountability and funding for the GPA implementation. In particular, proposals calling for clearer commitments on dedicated, predictable and directly accessible funding were not retained. Similarly, language encouraging Parties to accelerate GPA implementation and emphasising stronger commitments to its full and effective implementation was weakened through the addition of reference to implementation “in accordance with national circumstances, priorities and capabilities.”

Although the recommendation includes provisions for continued technical support and capacity-building, it does not establish concrete mechanisms to strengthen and sustain the role of gender and biodiversity focal points. In particular, the text does not specify dedicated financial allocations, institutional mandates or structured capacity-building pathways tailored to these focal points, despite their central role in coordinating the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action.

## WHAT IS NEXT?

Looking ahead, it will be important to ensure that draft recommendations agreed at SBI6 are retained and strengthened at COP17. In particular, the language adopted encouraging international financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility, to improve access to funding for women-led initiatives is a critical element for strengthening the full operationalisation of the Gender Plan of Action.

Equally important will be the provisions requesting the Executive Secretary to continue providing technical support, targeted capacity-building and collaboration with women’s organisations and networks, as well as undertaking a robust and systematic final review of the Gender Plan of Action. These elements are essential for strengthening accountability and ensuring that the Gender Plan of Action can be translated from a largely aspirational tool into an effective and operational mechanism to ensure the gender-responsive implementation of the GBF and the implementation of Target 23.

## ITEM 6. CAPACITY-BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

### WHAT WAS THE ITEM ABOUT?

This agenda item addressed discussions focused on defining the objectives, scope and methodology for evaluating the relevance and effectiveness of the Long-term Strategic Framework for Capacity-Building and Development and the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Mechanism in supporting the implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

These mechanisms play a key role in facilitating knowledge exchange, strengthening technical capacities and supporting the implementation of biodiversity commitments at national and regional levels. The evaluation process therefore aims to assess whether existing capacity-building initiatives are effectively supporting Parties and stakeholders in implementing biodiversity commitments and whether the current cooperation mechanisms are adequately responding to emerging needs.

### WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?

The discussions acknowledged the importance of ensuring inclusive participation in capacity-building and development initiatives, and some delegates recognised Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth roles both as beneficiaries and contributors to knowledge generation and implementation efforts.

The draft recommendation also includes provisions related to the analysis of data on capacity-building activities, including disaggregation by region and subregion in order to assess the effectiveness of the Long-term Strategic Framework and the Technical and Scientific Cooperation Mechanism across different geographical contexts.

### WHAT WAS NOT ACHIEVED OR REVERSED?

Despite some level of recognition, attempts were made to “simplify” the text by removing explicit references to Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and youth. Such simplification risks reducing the visibility of groups that continue to face systemic barriers to participating in biodiversity governance processes and accessing the benefits of capacity-building initiatives.

In addition, while the current draft text refers to the disaggregation of data, this disaggregation is limited to regional and subregional levels, and does not consider gender, age or ethnicity granularity. Given the significant disparities and varying realities that exist even within subregions, this level of aggregation may not be sufficient to capture the differentiated challenges and achievements among countries.

Proposals to explicitly integrate a human rights-based approach within the evaluation of capacity-building mechanisms, a key priority for the CBD WC, were not discussed during the plenary sessions and therefore were not reflected in the negotiation text.

### WHAT IS NEXT?

Looking ahead, it will be important to continue advocating for more granular approaches to data disaggregation in order to ensure that the evaluation of capacity-building and cooperation mechanisms adequately reflects the experiences and needs of groups that have historically been underserved or excluded from such initiatives.

In addition, while elements of a human rights-based approach to capacity-building may be implicitly reflected in the existing text, explicitly recognising this approach could strengthen the capacity-building framework and ensure that it responds to the broader social and environmental challenges affecting biodiversity governance. This is particularly relevant in the current global context, where increasing environmental and socio-economic pressures require capacity-building efforts that are both inclusive and responsive to diverse realities.





## ITEM 7. COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

### WHAT WAS THE ITEM ABOUT?

To start the conversation under this item, the Secretariat presented an overview of actions undertaken with a wide range of conventions, United Nations institutions and other organisations aimed at strengthening cooperation and synergies across biodiversity-related processes. Discussions among Parties focused primarily on reducing reporting burdens and minimising duplication of work across multilateral environmental agreements. At the same time, some Parties highlighted the potential for cooperation mechanisms to strengthen policy coherence and support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF).

### WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?

One element reflected in the draft decision concerns a study prepared jointly by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the CBD Secretariat on a human rights-based approach to implementation of the KM-GBF. Although the concept note for the agenda item referred to this study, the initial draft decision did not contain language welcoming it.

During the negotiations, the draft decision was amended to include two paragraphs welcoming the study, encouraging Parties and stakeholders to consider its recommendations and promoting continued collaboration between the CBD Secretariat and OHCHR. However, both paragraphs remain fully bracketed and will require further discussion at COP17.

Another proposal partially reflected in the draft text concerns cooperation beyond the sphere of multilateral environmental agreements. The draft decision includes a bracketed paragraph encouraging engagement with other sectors. This proposal generated notable pushback from some Parties, who expressed concerns that broader cooperation across sectors could intersect with trade-related regulatory frameworks.

### WHAT WAS NOT ACHIEVED OR REVERSED?

Proposals aimed at strengthening cooperation and the exchange of best practices between the gender focal points of the three Rio Conventions were discussed during the negotiations and included in a non-paper circulated during the meeting. However, this language was ultimately removed from the draft decision following objections from some Parties, who argued that the work of thematic focal points should remain under the authority of national focal points.

As a result, the draft decision does not include references to strengthening cooperation between the Gender Plans of Action of the Rio Conventions. This represents a missed opportunity to explore how the existing gender frameworks of the three conventions could reinforce each other and support gender-responsive implementation across the Rio Conventions architecture.

In addition, some proposals aimed at strengthening gender integration across the Rio Conventions — including work undertaken by the Joint Liaison Group and UN Women — were not reflected in the negotiation documents. While this collaboration has not been formally mandated, it nevertheless represents an important avenue for strengthening cooperation and identifying best practices in gender-responsive implementation.

## WHAT IS NEXT?

Looking ahead, engagement with national gender and biodiversity focal points will remain important. Encouraging dialogue between biodiversity focal points and the respective gender focal points of the climate and land Conventions could help strengthen coordination across the Rio Conventions where institutional arrangements allow. Continued collaboration with women's and gender constituencies across the conventions may also help identify opportunities for stronger synergies and shared learning across gender-related implementation processes.

In addition, the upcoming series of technical information exchanges on policy coherence between the Rio Conventions — scheduled between SBI-6 and the UNFCCC SB64 session in June — provides an opportunity to ensure that gender justice and human rights considerations are integrated into discussions on coherence across the conventions. These exchanges may also help highlight the role of the respective Gender Plans of Action and the ways in which they could complement and reinforce each other.

Finally, intersessional engagement with supportive Parties will remain important in order to highlight the importance of strengthening cooperation on gender-related implementation and to ensure that the currently bracketed paragraphs referring to human rights considerations are retained in the decision text during negotiations at COP17.

## ITEM 8. SPECIALIZED INTERNATIONAL ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING INSTRUMENTS IN THE CONTEXT OF ARTICLE 4, PARAGRAPH 4, OF THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL

### WHAT WAS THE ITEM ABOUT?

Agenda Item 8 addressed specialised international access and benefit-sharing instruments (SIIs) under Article 4, paragraph 4, of the Nagoya Protocol. Since 2016, Parties to the Protocol have been considering two key issues: first, the role of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (COP-MOP) in assessing, determining, reviewing or terminating the status of instruments as specialised international access and benefit-sharing instruments; and second, the development of indicative criteria that could guide the establishment or recognition of such instruments. During SBI-6, Parties examined options regarding whether and how COP-MOP should recognise or otherwise manage SIIs. The draft text under consideration presented three possible approaches: a formal Party-led recognition process, a coordination model without formal recognition, and a hybrid “deference and docket” model. In parallel, the text also laid down some indicative criteria that could serve as reference points for determining the status of specialised instruments. The discussions at SBI 6 highlighted broader concerns regarding the need for any approach to specialised instruments to remain consistent with the objectives of the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol, particularly fair and equitable benefit-sharing, respect for customary laws and community governance systems, and the protection of the rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.





## WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?

The recommendation emerging from SBI-6 remains heavily bracketed, reflecting continued disagreement among Parties on both the governance process for recognising specialised instruments and the development of indicative criteria. As a result, the issue remains unresolved and will require further consideration at the sixth meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

Despite the divergence, the text contains a limited number of procedural openings for engagement. An unbracketed paragraph invites Parties, other governments, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, relevant stakeholders and international organisations to submit views on options and indicative criteria for specialised international instruments. This provides a formal channel for written contributions that may inform further development of the process. The recommendation also refers to the establishment of an informal group to advance discussions on Article 4(4) of the Nagoya Protocol. The text indicates that the functioning of this group should remain inclusive and open to Parties and stakeholders in order to inform discussions at SBI-8.

## WHAT WAS NOT ACHIEVED OR REVERSED?

The terms of reference attached to the informal group grant the co-chairs discretion to invite observers to participate in the group's meetings. This discretionary approach does not guarantee observer participation and therefore leaves engagement contingent on invitation.

From an implementation perspective, such limitations on participation raise concerns regarding the inclusiveness of future discussions on specialised instruments. Women frequently play central roles as custodians, users and intergenerational transmitters of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. They are often key actors in seed selection, biodiversity conservation, traditional healthcare practices and local food systems.

At the same time, women are among those most affected when access and benefit-sharing frameworks are fragmented, unclear or weakened. Gaps or inconsistencies in ABS frameworks may undermine recognition of the knowledge systems that women sustain, reduce access to benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and weaken community governance systems. Limiting observer participation in discussions on specialised instruments therefore risks excluding perspectives that are essential to equitable and effective implementation of access and benefit-sharing frameworks.

## WHAT IS NEXT?

Although participation in the informal group may remain limited, the invitation to submit views on options and indicative criteria provides an opportunity to contribute evidence-based perspectives on the development of specialised instruments. Submissions may help clarify how such instruments can remain consistent with the objectives of the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol, including fair and equitable benefit-sharing and the protection of traditional knowledge. Continued engagement with Parties will also be important to ensure that the experiences of Indigenous Peoples and local communities especially the roles of women from these communities as custodians of genetic resources and traditional knowledge are reflected in future discussions on specialised international instruments and their relationship with the Nagoya Protocol.

## ITEM 9. REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROCESSES UNDER THE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS

### WHAT WAS THE ITEM ABOUT?

This item focused on reviewing existing processes and identifying ways to strengthen the efficiency, transparency, inclusiveness and equity of meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the governing bodies of the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols. Proposals included streamlining decision texts, reducing documentation burdens, piloting the early submission of written statements, strengthening decision-tracking tools and expanding the use of online briefings and digital participation modalities. These measures aim to facilitate more efficient negotiations while improving accessibility to Convention processes.

### WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?

Discussions under this item resulted in some procedural improvements aimed at facilitating participation in CBD meetings. These include efforts to improve the timeliness of documentation, the continued organisation of online pre-session briefings, and the piloting of early submission of written statements by observers.

However, some Parties noted challenges with the early submission process, including limited capacity to prepare statements in advance and the need for translation. Observer organisations also highlighted that the measure could unintentionally create additional constraints for civil society participants.

Another development was the expansion of the CBD decision-tracking tool to include decisions adopted under the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols. This tool may serve as a transparency mechanism to support monitoring of implementation commitments under the Convention and its Protocols.

Overall, the agreed measures aim to improve meeting organisation and transparency. While they may help time management, their effectiveness in improving inclusive participation will depend on how they are implemented in practice.

### WHAT WAS NOT ACHIEVED OR REVERSED?

Despite discussions on improving participation and inclusiveness, no operative provisions were adopted addressing gender-specific barriers to participation. In particular, the negotiated outcomes did not include provisions mandating gender analysis of meeting modalities, the systematic collection of gender-disaggregated participation data, or safeguards to ensure that efficiency reforms do not inadvertently disadvantage observers and grassroots participants.

A proposal to establish a Party-driven advisory body to support discussions on improving meeting effectiveness remained bracketed. The absence of agreement on this mechanism leaves unresolved a potential institutional space for addressing broader issues related to participation and meeting governance.

Similarly, language referring to trust fund support for participation of women and youth, discussed in related decisions under the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols, also remained bracketed. Without strengthened provisions addressing financial barriers, participation by representatives from least developed countries, small island developing States, and rights-holders may continue to face constraints.

Finally, discussions on digital and hybrid participation modalities did not address the gender digital divide, despite its potential implications for equitable participation in online negotiation processes.





## WHAT IS NEXT?

The discussions highlight the importance of continuing work on improving the inclusiveness and effectiveness of Convention processes ahead of COP17. The invitation for submissions on improving meeting effectiveness provides an opportunity for Parties and stakeholders to propose measures that strengthen equitable participation in Convention processes.

Future work should explicitly target gender justice and the participation of women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including through financial support, accessible procedures, digital inclusion, and measures for semi- or non-literate participants

Upcoming negotiations will revisit unresolved elements of the text, including bracketed provisions related to governance arrangements and financial support for participation. Ensuring that procedural reforms support equitable participation—including the participation of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities—will remain important for strengthening accountability and effectiveness in the implementation of the Convention.

## ITEM 10. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS: FUNCTIONAL REVIEW OF THE SECRETARIAT

### WHAT WAS THE ITEM ABOUT?

This item considered the external functional review of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, undertaken in accordance with Decision 15/34 and paragraph 11 of Decision 16/28. The review examines the Secretariat's organisational structure, operational processes and allocation of responsibilities, and includes recommendations for the adoption of short-, medium- and long-term measures aimed at strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of the Secretariat.

The review process represents a strategic institutional moment for examining how the Secretariat can better support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. From the perspective of the CBD Women's Caucus, this process also provides an important opportunity to ensure that a gender-responsive and human rights-based approach is systematically integrated across the Secretariat's functions.

### WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?

Discussions under this agenda item focused primarily on the follow-up to the external functional review and on potential institutional adjustments that could improve the Secretariat's effectiveness in supporting implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The review proposes a series of short-, medium- and long-term measures related to organisational restructuring, clarification of roles and responsibilities, and adjustments to staffing and operational processes.

Negotiations among Parties resulted in partial agreement on elements related to the implementation of the functional review. The draft decision acknowledges the need to improve operational efficiency and foresees continued work on updating organisational arrangements, including potential adjustments to the Secretariat's structure and internal processes.

## WHAT WAS NOT ACHIEVED OR REVERSED?

While the functional review highlights opportunities to strengthen the Secretariat's capacity to support implementation of the Framework, discussions at SBI-6 did not result in agreement on several structural and governance-related issues. At the same time, many paragraphs addressing follow-up measures and organisational adjustments remain bracketed, reflecting differing views among Parties on the scope and pace of changes. These unresolved elements include references to the implementation of short- and medium-term measures proposed in the review, updates to job descriptions and assessments of staffing and cost implications associated with longer-term institutional changes.

In addition, different operative paragraphs related to the implementation of the functional review remain bracketed, including those addressing the initiation of structural adjustments and organisational reforms. As a result, the scope and timeline of follow-up measures remain uncertain and will require further discussion by Parties.

## WHAT IS NEXT?

Given that the review directly concerns the internal organisation of the Secretariat, continued engagement with the Secretariat and Parties will be important in order to ensure that gender justice and human rights considerations are reflected in the development of medium- and long-term institutional measures.

In this context, it will be important to ensure that the Secretariat's proposals for new positions and organisational adjustments include provisions linked to Decision XII/7 regarding a full-time Gender Programme Officer with a dedicated budget and clearly defined responsibilities. Such measures would help ensure that gender justice considerations are systematically integrated across the Secretariat's work.

## CLOSING MESSAGE

The discussions and outcomes of SBI-6 revealed important challenges for advancing gender-responsive and rights-based implementation of the Convention. While references to gender equality and inclusive participation were retained in some negotiation texts, gender considerations were largely sidelined across many substantive discussions. The mid-term review of the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030) also remained partial, reflecting the limited number of submissions received and highlighting the need for stronger reporting and evidence. In addition, procedural decisions aimed at improving meeting efficiency raised concerns regarding equitable participation, including instances where observer interventions — including from the CBD Women's Caucus — were constrained despite requests from Parties.

Looking ahead to COP-17, a significant portion of the substantive work remains unresolved. Many negotiation texts at SBI-6 remained bracketed, adding to the backlog of partially agreed recommendations emerging from SBSTTA-27 and SB8(j)-01. As a result, COP-17 is likely to face a particularly dense agenda in order to finalise outstanding elements. Ensuring that gender justice, human rights, and the leadership of women — including women from Indigenous Peoples and local communities — are meaningfully integrated across these processes will remain essential for advancing an implementation pathway that is equitable, inclusive and effective

