



# Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.  
GENERAL

CBD/COP/14/9/Add.1  
2 October 2018

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Fourteenth meeting  
Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17-29 November 2018  
Item 17 of the provisional agenda\*

## **ADVICE TO ENABLE A GENDER-RESPONSIVE PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POST-2020 BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The present document contains advice for Parties, other relevant organizations, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to enable a gender-responsive process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.<sup>1</sup>

2. Section II provides key messages on gender equality and biodiversity linkages; section III provides guiding principles to inform and provide a foundation for a gender-responsive approach to the implementation of recommended actions; while section IV provides recommendations for undertaking a gender-responsive process for the development of the post-2020 biodiversity framework. This advice is complemented by an information document (CBD/COP/14/INF/15) which provides some further guidance, including examples of practice tools that may be applied by Parties and other relevant organizations to support a gender-responsive consultative process.

### **II. KEY MESSAGES**

3. Key messages are intended to raise awareness among Party representatives, stakeholders from other relevant organizations, and the public, on the value of and need for a gender-responsive process. They can thereby serve as useful messages to be conveyed in public outreach, awareness-raising and related communications efforts on the critical interlinkages between gender equality and biodiversity. Key messages are as follows:

- (a) Gender roles and relations play a critical part in driving and addressing biodiversity loss;
- (b) A better understanding of gender-differentiated influences and impacts is needed to strengthen biodiversity efforts;
- (c) Addressing common gender issues across the Convention on Biological Diversity, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the other Rio conventions is crucial for achieving environmental and sustainable development objectives;
- (d) Ensuring women's full, equal and meaningful engagement and participation leads to better conservation and resource governance outcomes;
- (e) Engaging women and women's groups in biodiversity processes supports transformational change.

---

\* CBD/COP/14/1.

<sup>1</sup> The advice has been prepared pursuant to recommendation 2/19 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

These messages are elaborated upon in the information document (CBD/COP/14/INF/15).

### III. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

4. Building on the key messages, the guiding principles emphasize:

(a) Empowered participation of women in all decision-making processes relevant to the development of the post-2020 biodiversity framework. This involves taking a participatory approach with an explicit emphasis on engaging women, ensuring that diverse women are informed and have the capacity to participate fully and meaningfully in the post-2020 development process;

(b) Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as a cross-cutting consideration to inform research, analysis, consultation and decision-making under the post-2020 development process;

(c) A human rights-based approach, to ensure that principles and obligations related to the achievement of human rights help guide the process.

### IV. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

5. The recommendations for the process constitute proposals for actions directed to Parties, other relevant organizations, and the Secretariat, to address three key areas: (a) ensuring an inclusive and representative process; (b) promoting outreach and awareness-raising; and (c) generating and disseminating reliable evidence on gender equality and biodiversity linkages. Suggested gender-responsive practice tools, checklists, guidelines and sample questions associated with each of the three areas are provided in CBD/COP/14/INF/15.

#### A. Ensuring an inclusive and representative process

6. Women, particularly rural and indigenous women, are typically underrepresented in institutions, organizations and other forums focused on biodiversity-related decision-making. An inclusive process for the development of the post-2020 biodiversity framework will enable not only women's participation, but also better visibility, representation and consideration of their challenges, needs, priorities as well as their leadership in biodiversity-related decision-making processes. This can be achieved by providing more platforms and entry points for women and other stakeholders working on women's issues to participate in and meaningfully contribute to the post-2020 process.

7. The following are recommendations for *Parties*:

(a) Ensure that gender-biodiversity issues are included in the agenda, with space provided for discussion and dialogue, in all national, regional and global workshops conducted for the post-2020 process;

(b) Support the participation of women and representatives of women's groups in national, subnational, regional and international consultations related to the post-2020 process, including the participation of indigenous and rural women, as well as women from diverse groups (such as those representing different ethnicities, race, religion);

(c) Ensure that the team of government officials leading the provision of inputs on the post-2020 framework has gender expertise and/or includes women as active participants, including the delegations involved in the negotiations of the framework and in the participation in high-level events;

(d) Join the "Friends of Gender Equality" group<sup>2</sup> under the Convention process, to collectively advocate for and contribute to a gender-responsive post-2020 biodiversity framework, including in the negotiations;

---

<sup>2</sup> The "Friends of Gender Equality" group was initiated on the margins of the meetings of the subsidiary bodies to the Convention held in Montreal, Canada, from 2 to 13 July 2018. The Governments of Canada and Malawi are leading this group, which is composed of representatives of Parties and other organizations and which aims to advance discussions on gender equality under the Convention.

(e) Engage with ministries and other government entities responsible for gender equality and the empowerment of women to seek their advice on the post-2020 process and to enable their informed and active participation in the process, including in workshops, stakeholder consultations, preparation of submissions to the Secretariat, and the negotiations of the framework;

(f) Facilitate discussions between national institutions addressing sustainable livelihoods, women's empowerment, and vulnerable groups to develop an inclusive consultative process and action plan to support the post-2020 development process;

(g) Engage with national focal points of the other Rio Conventions (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification), including gender focal points, to identify opportunities for collaboration on relevant gender-environment issues, including by sharing information and reinforcing the inclusion of shared objectives in the post-2020 biodiversity framework.

8. The following are recommendations for *other relevant organizations*:

(a) Engage in national, regional and global consultation processes to highlight gender equality-biodiversity issues including in workshops, stakeholder consultations, preparation of submissions to the Secretariat, and the negotiations of the framework;

(b) Support the effective engagement of government environmental and gender equality machineries/related institutions in the post-2020 process, through the provision of information and expertise, as appropriate;

(c) Support the effective participation of women and women's group representatives in the national, subnational, regional and international consultations related to the post-2020 process, including the participation of indigenous and rural women, as well as women from diverse groups (such as representing different ethnicities, race, religion), through providing information and capacity-building related to Convention processes and gender-biodiversity linkages;

(d) Strengthen partnerships and networks on gender and biodiversity-related issues, to engage in the post-2020 process. This could involve reaching out to partners and networks that deal with biodiversity-related issues, and those representing women and indigenous peoples and local communities, to identify opportunities to emphasize gender equality and biodiversity links in their work, and to engage their support in providing inputs and strengthening advocacy on gender and biodiversity in the post-2020 biodiversity framework;

(e) Engage in and support the activities of the "Friends of Gender Equality" group under the CBD process, to contribute to the development of a gender-responsive post-2020 biodiversity framework.

9. The following are recommendations for the *Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity*:

(a) Promote inclusion of gender equality and women's empowerment in the agendas of regional and global consultation workshops, as well as in high-level meetings associated with the post-2020 process, with space dedicated for facilitated discussion;

(b) Seek opportunities to promote prominent speakers and experts who can address gender issues in consultations and in high-level meetings, to support high-level engagement and attention on gender and biodiversity;

(c) Collaborate and partner with United Nations system entities and other stakeholders, tapping on gender experts among these partners, in the organization of events, discussions, workshops and other gatherings.

## **B. Promoting outreach and awareness-raising**

10. Enabling informed and empowered participation of key stakeholders in the post-2020 process involves raising awareness of the Convention among diverse groups and advancing understanding of

gender-biodiversity linkages. Broadening the base of partners and stakeholders supports an inclusive approach to developing a new global biodiversity framework, which responds to diverse challenges, and builds on the combined efforts of actors at multiple levels. This includes engagement of rural and indigenous communities — women in particular — to strengthen their understanding of how biodiversity loss and conservation policies impact their lives and how they can play a role in processes related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

11. The following are recommendations for *Parties*:

(a) Highlight the importance of a gender-responsive post-2020 biodiversity framework in all official communications on the post-2020 process, including the statements made at multilateral meetings, high-level political events etc.;

(b) Build capacity at the national level by providing training on gender and biodiversity to CBD National Focal Points, government officials leading the provision of inputs on the post-2020 framework and decision makers in other relevant ministries. This could involve drawing on available online courses, as well as engaging gender-environment experts to facilitate training/discussion with staff (see CBD/COP/14/INF/15 for a list of relevant online courses);

(c) Promote messages on the relevance of gender equality and women's empowerment to the achievement of biodiversity objectives, such as through social media and public engagement efforts (key messages included in section II above can be applied and adapted for social media and public outreach);

(d) Identify prominent champions who can persuasively advocate for the importance of gender-responsive biodiversity policies and practices and the inclusion of gender considerations in the post-2020 framework;

(e) Reach out to government institutions responsible for gender and women's issues, and women's groups to build/strengthen partnerships and identify opportunities for joint campaigns, education, public outreach and awareness-raising, as part of the post-2020 process.

12. The following are recommendations for other relevant organizations:

(a) Identify prominent champions who can persuasively advocate for the importance of gender-responsive biodiversity policies and practices and the inclusion of gender considerations in the post-2020 framework;

(b) Maximize opportunities to promote key messages on the relevance of gender issues to the achievement of biodiversity objectives relevant for the post-2020 framework, to diverse audiences (academia, youth groups, environmental organizations, private sector, etc.) including through online media (blogs, interviews);

(c) Organize events, exhibits and other communication and outreach activities on gender and biodiversity to build attention and mobilize support for a gender-responsive post-2020 process and framework. This could include in relevant forums, such as Conferences of the Parties under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, annual meetings of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women;

(d) Highlight the gender dimensions of biodiversity in interventions in relevant multilateral discussions and consultations;

(e) Build networks and coalitions of civil society organizations to strengthen awareness and advocacy on women's equal access, control and share of benefits from biological resources, in support of a gender-responsive post-2020 process and framework;

(f) Carry out targeted campaigns and outreach efforts in the lead-up to 2020, such as:

- (i) Launch an online campaign to showcase gender and biodiversity issues, best practices and case studies (see CBD/COP/14/INF/15 for a list of example campaign toolkits);
- (ii) Organize a targeted forum for rural and indigenous women with a view to highlighting their issues in the post-2020 process;
- (iii) Reach out to gender and development publishers/publications, to include and promote research and articles related to gender and biodiversity issues (see CBD/COP/14/INF/15 for a list of example publications);
- (iv) Promote (via organizational websites, social media and other communications efforts) case studies on biodiversity-related topics, such as access and benefit-sharing, which have gender-responsive approaches or outcomes;

(g) Consider what capacity-building activities can be offered to local communities to help them voice their views and make use of political space in the post-2020 process.

13. The following are recommendations for the *Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity*:

(a) Produce, promote and disseminate capacity-building and communications material, analysis and case studies, including on gender aspects of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals, to promote consideration of the incorporation of gender-related concerns in the post-2020 process;

(b) Promote gender-responsive approaches and practices relevant for the post-2020 process in meetings under the Convention (meetings of the Conference of the Parties, subsidiary bodies);

(c) Seek opportunities to collaborate and partner with United Nations system entities and other stakeholders, tapping on gender experts among these partners, in undertaking related outreach and communications efforts.

### **C. Generating and disseminating reliable evidence on gender-biodiversity linkages**

14. Reliable information on the social and cultural dimensions of biodiversity loss, conservation, and sustainable use is essential in understanding the complexities of different drivers of biodiversity loss and identifying potential solutions. Systematic collection, compilation and communication of sex-disaggregated data, and undertaking gender analysis on biodiversity-related issues are important measures to explore these complexities, and to inform the development of the post-2020 framework.

15. The following are recommendations for *Parties*:

(a) Prepare and disseminate stakeholder surveys that focus on/include questions on gender and biodiversity issues, to target groups, including ministries responsible for women's affairs and women's organizations, in order to identify views and priorities regarding gender and biodiversity for consideration in the development of the post-2020 framework;

(b) Include questions and dedicate space in online discussion forums for the post-2020 process for dialogue and input on gender and biodiversity issues;

(c) Identify, together with ministries of planning and statistics, national data needs to effectively address and monitor the gender dimensions of biodiversity conservation, and communicate them to the Secretariat through submissions, consultations and intergovernmental negotiations for the post-2020 process;

(d) Address gender dimensions of biodiversity in the submissions made to the Secretariat on the post-2020 framework, and highlight local and national best practices and lessons learned on gender-responsive approaches to biodiversity conservation;

(e) Engage national machineries responsible for women's affairs and gender equality in the collection and analysis of data and information on the gender dimensions of biodiversity, and support their engagement in the post-2020 consultation process;

(f) Share/highlight the gender-biodiversity links to the Sustainable Development Goals for lead ministries/working groups responsible for planning for national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in order to ensure that national planning processes align with proposed goals/targets under the post-2020 framework and to foster collaboration on shared objectives (see CBD/COP/14/INF/15 for information on gender-biodiversity links with the Sustainable Development Goals);

(g) Ensure that issues of gender equality and women's empowerment are addressed and reported upon in all national and local workshops, consultations and related meetings carried out within the context of the development of the post-2020 framework.

16. The following are recommendations for *other relevant organizations*:

(a) Address the gender dimensions of biodiversity in the submissions made to the Secretariat on the post-2020 framework, and highlight local and national best practices and lessons learned on gender-responsive approaches to biodiversity conservation, as well as the priority issues to be addressed, and potential solutions;

(b) Contribute substantively to global, national local consultations on the post-2020 framework by showcasing evidence on the disproportionate impact of biodiversity loss on women and men, as well as women's leadership in biodiversity conservation;

(c) Undertake studies to obtain data on gender and biodiversity links and impacts, such as identifying priority ecosystem services for vulnerable women in different contexts, and identifying the communities most vulnerable to biodiversity loss and their needs and preferences, with a view to informing the post-2020 process;

(d) Design and conduct community surveys to draw out gender-disaggregated needs, views, interests and priorities at the local level, using where possible, conventional face-to-face, door-to-door means, as well as on-line survey tools, with a view to informing national inputs into the post-2020 process.

17. The following are recommendations for the *Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity*:

(a) Prepare case studies and work with partners to identify data and information for inclusion in the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and in the second edition of the *Local Biodiversity Outlook*;

(b) Consider preparing online surveys to identify priority gender and biodiversity issues among international partners to contribute to the post-2020 process;

(c) Support adequate reporting of gender issues raised in consultation processes for the post-2020 framework;

(d) Seek opportunities to collaborate and partner with United Nations system entities and other stakeholders, including research and academic institutions, tapping on gender experts among these partners to support identification and promote research and outreach materials highlighting gender equality and biodiversity issues, to support consideration of the post-2020 framework.

---