

IN BRIEF

UN Women at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity

17th Conference of the Parties (COP17)

Recognizing the interlinkages between women's rights, livelihoods and resilience and the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, UN Women calls upon the Parties to the CBD and the Conference of the Parties to:

- 1. Recognize women and girls as rights-holders, leaders and agents of change** for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity across terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems and ensure their rights to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits.
- 2. As mandated by the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership**, including Indigenous women and women from local communities and rural areas, in all biodiversity-related decision-making and governance processes, consistent with Targets 22 and 23.
- 3. Accelerate implementation of Target 23** in its entirety, including by securing women's equal rights and tenure security to land, water and natural resources, recognizing women's customary, collective and individual rights.
- 4. Increase gender-responsive biodiversity finance** and provide direct, accessible and sustained funding to women-led, Indigenous, grassroots and community-based initiatives, including dedicated resources for implementation of the Gender Plan of Action.
- 5. Ensure that biodiversity planning, monitoring, reporting and review processes**, including NBSAPs, incorporate gender-responsive and human rights-based approaches, national gender targets aligned with Target 23, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches and robust accountability mechanisms.
- 6. Strengthen gender-responsive monitoring systems** by investing in sex-disaggregated data and gender statistics, community-based monitoring, citizen-generated data and locally-led evidence generation to track progress on Targets 22 and 23.
- 7. Guarantee the rights, protection and security of women environmental human rights defenders** and ensure access to justice, accountability and remedy in biodiversity-related decision-making and implementation.
- 8. Address the growing pressures on care systems globally** that are being aggravated and intensified by biodiversity loss and environmental degradation, including by recognizing, reducing and redistributing unpaid care work, and rewarding, representing and resourcing paid care work.
- 9. Recognize that biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation are interconnected crises** with disproportionate impacts on women and girls, and promote gender-responsive, human rights-based just transitions that advance women's rights livelihoods and resilience.
- 10. Promote gender-responsive agriculture and food systems** by recognizing and supporting the contributions of women farmers, pastoralists, fishers, Indigenous women and women from local communities to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, taking into consideration the 2026 International Year of the Woman Farmer and the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

Advancing Gender-Responsive Synergies Across the UNCBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD

Recognizing the interlinkages and synergies across the three Rio Conventions – on biodiversity (UNCBD), climate change (UNFCCC) and desertification (UNCCD) - and the promotion of gender equality and women's human rights, and their long-standing efforts to coordinate and collaborate, UN Women calls upon Parties to the Rio Conventions and the Conferences of their Parties to:

- 1. Address the disproportionate impacts on the rights, resources and resilience of women and girls in all their diversity** caused by the interlinked crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
- 2. Take coordinated, holistic measures** to address the acceleration and intensification of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation, which are exacerbating poverty and inequalities, including gender inequalities, putting at risk all human and non-human life on earth.
- 3. Take a human rights-based and gender-responsive approach** in decisions and their implementation across the Rio Conventions, including advancing and applying relevant Human Rights Council and UN General Assembly recommendations on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.
- 4. Guarantee the human rights and security of women environmental human rights defenders** whose actions cut across the impacts of and solutions to climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
- 5. Realize women's land and resource rights and tenure security** as fundamental for achieving the goals and targets established by the Rio Conventions.
- 6. Collaborate across the Rio Conventions** to ensure women's and girls' full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership at decision-making tables to determine and implement decisions. Grassroots women, Indigenous women, women from local communities and youth are central to climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation challenges and solutions.
- 7. Protect Indigenous women's human rights** in biodiversity and climate action, promote their full and effective participation in policy development, project design, and natural resource management, guarantee the tenure and governance of their territories, and support their practices to conserve, protect and restore biodiversity and build climate resilience.
- 8. Promote gender-responsive just transitions** away from economies based on the exploitation and extraction of fossil fuels and natural resources to mitigate climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
- 9. Increase gender-responsive finance** for the comprehensive and durable implementation of goals and targets and agreed plans and strategies to address climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.
- 10. Strengthen coordination** amongst Secretariats, Parties and stakeholders of the Rio Conventions by aligning NBSAPs, NDCs, NAPs and Land Degradation Neutrality targets, harmonizing implementation of the three Gender Action Plans as well as relevant guidance and recommendations, and advancing common approaches and guidance for gender-responsive implementation.

UN Women exists to advance women's rights, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. As the lead United Nations entity on gender equality, we shift laws, institutions, social norms and services to close the gender gap and build an equal world for all women and girls. We keep the rights of women and girls at the centre of global progress – always, everywhere. Because gender equality is not just what we do. It is who we are.