



CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Fifteenth meeting – Part II
Montreal, Canada
7-19 December, 2022

19 December 2022

AGENDA ITEM 30: CLOSING PLENARY

CLOSING STATEMENT

Thanks, Chair

My name is Alejandra from Perú, speaking on behalf of the UNCBD Women's Caucus.

Today we are making history: For the first time, a Rio Convention adopts a stand alone target on gender equality, which in parallel, has a strong Gender Plan of Action to support its effective implementation at national and local level. We want to acknowledge to all our Champions, without you this could not be possible.

In 1905, Begum Rokeya wrote a dream about a world driven by equality, respect and justice. More than 100 years have passed, and we still stand here demanding it. But we don't have time to wait any longer. The global crises that we as humanity are facing, don't permit us. We urgently need a systemic change. Therefore, let's talk about the uncomfortable. We have spent the last two weeks discussing how to conserve the remaining biodiversity that survives our economic models and the power imbalances within societies.

In this regard, if we are serious about living in harmony with nature by 2050, the Women's Caucus considers it non-negotiable to:

1. Raise the bar of coherence and synergies, there should be clear and strong political willingness to halt biodiversity loss while achieving other environmental and human rights international obligations.
2. For that, gender-responsive resource mobilisation is crucial, not only for GBF implementation but also for all COP15 decisions. In this line, we do not agree to include biodiversity offsets and credits because they are false solutions with serious long-term consequences.

3. Secure financial support for women in two ways: allocate specific and sufficient funding for the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action, as well as ensure women's direct access to resources.
4. The contributions of women and girls to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use must be recognized and effectively measured. We are not disempowered victims, but rather active shapers, guardians and defenders of biodiversity.
5. Accountability mechanisms should be defined so that Parties respond to their decisions and impacts on biodiversity, either directly, or through their failure to regulate what happens within their jurisdiction, or both, if either is provoked by their citizens.
6. All women and girls, in their diversities, should be empowered to engage effectively in the collaborative implementation of the Post2020 GBF and its associated instruments. But not in an extractive way, rather when it comes to indigenous women, it ensures their free, prior and informed consent.

As Begum Rokeya imagined 100 years ago, I want all of us to consider whether we will be truly living in harmony with nature in 2050? Please, take a second to answer yourself honestly. We at the Women's Caucus firmly believe that is possible. It will be possible if, as soon as we cross these doors: the values of love, care, nurture and co-responsibility among countries and people guide our thinking and action, regardless of where we are, what we do, or who we are.

Thank you very much,