



**12th 8j Working Group**  
**Geneva, Switzerland**  
**12 to 16 November, 2023**

**Agenda Item 6. “Development of a new programme of work and institutional arrangements on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities”**  
**12 November 2023**

Thank you, Co-Chair

My name is Yesenia Hernandez speaking on behalf of the CBD Women’s Caucus.

We welcome the report presented as Item 4 of the Agenda. However we note with concern that only few Parties reported and none of these Parties reported on the engagement and actions of indigenous and local women and girls.

Therefore, we consider of the utmost importance to address this invisibility starting by making women, in particular indigenous and local women, explicit in the text of the new programme of work and by empowering their role in the implementation of the new programme.

Given this context, and moving forward to Item 6 of the Agenda, for the realization of the full, effective, inclusive, gender-responsive, equitable participation of women and girls, including indigenous and local women and girls, we recommend, inter alia:

- In the background section, to include a **new paragraph recalling critical elements of Targets 22 and 23, as well as the Gender Plan of Action related to indigenous and local women and girls.**
- Align the language on participation in the document to Target 22 that refers to **“full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation.”** This is a basic element of the rights-based approach mandated in the Framework. For example in the Objective of Annex 1 and paragraph 2 of the general principles paragraph 2.
- Include reference to the Gender Plan of Action, and the elements of Target 23, for example in the preamble of the proposed decision, then in the section “objective” of Annex 1,

- Make reference to Section C of the KM-GBF in the Objective of the Annex 1, then in Paragraph 7.
- Clearly include references to **indigenous and local women** in every place applicable as Gender Plan of Action suggests in its paragraph 2.e, for example in paragraph 7 of the decision, then in paragraph 4 from Annex 1, as well as in the title of Element 8 of annex 1 regarding direct access to funding.
- Including references to **“women and youth”** as per their character of rights holders and key contributors to the implementation of the new programme, for example In paragraphs 4 and 5 of the proposed decision.
- Strengthen the number of and quality of partnerships and collaborations in the implementation of the new programme of work. These need to be established on an ethical and equitable base, and on mutual respect,

On the Annex 1, ELEMENTS section:

1. “Conservation and restoration...”
  - In task 1.1 refer to **“all elements”** of Target 3 including **“on Indigenous and Traditional Territories”**.
2. “Sustainable use...”
  - Highlight more explicitly the implementation of Article 10(c) as key to ensuring sustainable use of biodiversity. Practices of indigenous and local women as food producers, traders, small-scale farmers and fishers, seed keepers are essential to maintaining key ecosystem functions and biodiversity.
3. “Sharing benefits...”
  - We propose the addition of 2 tasks:
    - **“3.8 Parties Must Generate Data And Statistics On The Participation Of Indigenous And Local Communities Women In Decision Making And Access And Benefit Sharing”**
    - **“3.9 Develop guidance to ensure that indigenous peoples and local communities are given priority in receiving benefits directly from access and benefit-sharing initiatives under the Nagoya Protocol, such as access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, derivatives and Digital Sequence Information ”.**
5. Implementation and monitoring
  - In task 5.2 we propose refinement of language for the task to highlight relevant elements of the Gender Plan of Action linked to the nature of the new programme of work on Article 8j.

## 7. Human-rights based approach

- Ensure the application of Human Rights Based Approach in the implementation of the new programme of work, including by developing guidance and establishing specific mechanisms to, inter alia, ensure the full protection of women Environmental Human Rights Defenders from all forms of violence, as per objective 1.5 in the Gender Plan of Action<sup>1</sup>.

## 8. Direct access to funding

- In the preamble of the element to add express reference to “**Enhancing the role of collective actions by indigenous peoples and local communities, Mother Earth centric actions[1] and non-market-based approaches and;**” as is already agreed in Target 19.
- To include a new task 8.4 on the “**systemic monitoring and reporting of how many resources and in which terms are directed or accessed by indigenous peoples and local communities, in particular women and youth**”.

We would like to ask for the support of the Parties to these relevant amendments.

Thank you Co-Chair

For full reading of the proposed changes refer to: [PUBLIC\\_CBDWC\\_06\\_WD\\_wg8j-12-05-en](#)

**For further information contact CBD Women’s Caucus Coordination**

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 15/11 “Objective 1.5 Identify and eliminate, prevent and respond to all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence, in particular in relation to control, ownership and access to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, including protecting women environmental human rights defenders and park rangers”.