

# WHO RUNS THE WORLD? WOMEN MUST BE AT THE CORE OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK



Avaaz's Listening Document  
for the Geneva meetings of the  
Convention on Biological Diversity  
(SBSTTA-24, SBI-3, and OEWG-3)  
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LAST CALLS GENEVA

GENDER

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# A LETTER FROM AVAAZ

## WE ALL NEED POWERFUL WOMEN AND GIRLS



5' READ

Excellencies,

There is another crucial “*half of the planet*” that we must not leave on the sidelines: women and girls. In most cultures, women serve as unofficial custodians of biodiversity.<sup>1</sup> Their knowledge, values, and practices have been critical for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, yet as is the case with almost all other aspects of women’s work and knowledge, their contributions have been traditionally perceived as non-work and non-knowledge<sup>2</sup>.

The CBD has already demonstrated leadership on this major issue. The Convention preamble<sup>3</sup> explicitly recognizes “*the vital role that women play in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and reaffirms the need for full participation of women, including indigenous women and local communities, in the implementation of the convention*”. The CBD’s 2008 gender plan of action<sup>4</sup> made the CBD the first Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) to fully commit to equality and women’s rights. But women and girls continue to face high levels of physical and financial vulnerability, and are very often the first to suffer the consequences of the depletion of natural resources<sup>5</sup>, and the ones who carry most of the burden of environmental degradation<sup>6</sup>. The drivers at the roots of their oppression are most often the very same as the drivers at the roots of biodiversity destruction, and women’s role as key actors for biodiversity is yet to be considered in policy planning for biodiversity in most national contexts.

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework is where we need to go beyond broad principles and put in place the conditions for women and girls’ leadership to be recognized, protected, and supported at the level they deserve. During The CBD meetings in Geneva, several key texts will be on the table where a difference can be made for women and girls. Avaaz urges you to do two things. First, to better reflect the needs for further recognition of women’s and girls’ rights throughout the post-2020 GBF and the post-2020 gender plan of action (GPA).

This would notably entail including the informed, full and effective participation of women at all levels of policy-making implementation and monitoring, weaving the rights of women and girls into the post-2020 GBF and achieving a truly gender responsive post-2020 GPA. Second, to include a specific focus on the needs of Indigenous women in both of these documents. Thanks to the knowledge, values, and practices of which they are often the unrecognized custodians, Indigenous women are key actors that have enabled the sustainable use, protection and conservation of biodiversity on the ground. Yet, as women and members of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), they continue to face double discrimination and marginalization worldwide.

In the last couple of years, we have witnessed some efforts to “fit” girls’ and women’s rights into the international environmental agenda. But this should not be a nice and mere “add

on”, or an issue to care about once other “serious matters” have been dealt with. Rights-based approaches are transformative exactly because they provide additional power to those actors who are at the forefront of the struggles to resist harmful structures that lead to the exploitation of people and the resources of our planet. It is no accident that IPLCs, and women in particular, count so disproportionately among the rising number of murdered activists worldwide. If we really want to achieve the goals and targets of the post-2020 GBF, we must ensure that the rights of people who will be at the frontlines to carry on transformative changes are truly respected - and are not just a cosmetic addition.

Excellencies, in Geneva you will have the responsibility of defining the biodiversity agenda for at least the next decade. The spirit of gender inclusiveness of the CBD must be upheld and thoroughly translated into decisions that will enable women and girls, and Indigenous women in particular, to have even more powerful positive impacts on the ground. This is central to enable a more sustainable future for all, and you have a historic opportunity to take us there.

With hope for equality,

The Avaaz Team

1 Vandana Shiva (1992) Women’s Indigenous Knowledge and Biodiversity Conservation. India International Center Quarterly Vol. 19, No. 1/2. [www.jstor.org/stable/23002230](http://www.jstor.org/stable/23002230)

2 *Ibid.*

3 CBD (1992) Convention of Biological Diversity. Available at [www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf)

4 CBD (2008) The Gender Plan of Action under the Convention on Biological Diversity. Available [www.cbd.int/programmes/cross-cutting/gender/cop-09-inf-12-rev1-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/programmes/cross-cutting/gender/cop-09-inf-12-rev1-en.pdf)

5 FAO (2001) Chapter II: The Gender Perspective. See [www.fao.org/3/x2919e/x2919e04.htm](http://www.fao.org/3/x2919e/x2919e04.htm)

6 OECD (2021) Gender and the Environment, Building evidence and policies to achieve the SDGS. See [www.humanitarianlibrary.org/sites/default/files/2021/05/Env%20and%20gender.pdf](http://www.humanitarianlibrary.org/sites/default/files/2021/05/Env%20and%20gender.pdf)



PARIS, France. – Avaaz volunteers marching in support of the ambitious goals of the Rio conventions, calling for the respect of the rights of women and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

# OUR CASE SUCCESS IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT GENDER EQUALITY

 10' READ

The other “half of the planet” is still fighting for their fundamental human rights<sup>7</sup> to be respected, allowing equal access to rights, resources and opportunities. Yet, in most cultures, women serve as unofficial custodians of biodiversity. Their knowledge, values, and practices have been critical for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Women and girls are often the guardians of orally transmitted local knowledge for the sustainable use, protection and conservation of biodiversity; from harvesting, vegetation monitoring, fuelwood collection, home gardens, medicinal diversity to environmental management. This natural resources management role can be found, for instance, in some Asian countries, where women from local communities are responsible for collecting and preserving food before the onset of the monsoon; while in some Latin American countries, Indigenous women hold the knowledge of the most local weather resistant and nutritious varieties of maize; in African countries women healers use around 100 different plant species for medical purposes<sup>8</sup>. These are just a few examples of the importance of women's traditional knowledge and practices for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. The significant combined impacts of biodiversity loss and climate change make the recognition and support for women's roles even more critical: the latest assessment of the IPCC's Working Group II, released on February 28, 2022, declares that women's empowerment is linked to reducing the risks for peace.<sup>9</sup>

## BIODIVERSITY HEROES THAT STILL FACE OPPRESSION

However, this leadership is too often unrecognized. This is visible in cases where women are being given more responsibilities for managing small-scale agriculture, yet their voices do not have a proportionate weight in decision-making related to land use, nor do they have equal access to needed financial resources<sup>10</sup> or even the right to own land. This inequality is also found throughout economic sectors, where women still earn less in primary sectors - notably agriculture, fisheries, and forestry - in both developing and developed countries<sup>11</sup>. The gender pay gap, where women earn less than men for equal performances and responsibilities, plagues virtually all global economic sectors. According to UN Women, “*women workers earn an average of 84 percent of what men earn. For women of color, immigrant women, and women with children, the difference is even greater*”<sup>12</sup>.

Women also have less access to financial resources that would increase their capacity to adapt to climate change and biodiversity loss, according to the UN<sup>13</sup>, such as services to help cushion the financial impacts of disasters and environmental threats to their livelihoods. Women work in the field more often than men, and therefore have higher exposure to pesticides that impact their health.

Alongside sex and gender, women face other social discrimination factors, such as ethnicity, socio-economic class, cultural power structures, labour division, and educational opportunities, among others. The intersection of these factors cause even greater inequality. For example, women in poverty are 14 times more likely to die during a natural disaster

7 UNEMG (2021) Human Rights and Biodiversity: Key messages. See <https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/KMBiodiversity26febLight.pdf>

8 IUCN (2014) Gender and Biodiversity. See [www.cbd.int/gender/doc/fs\\_uicn\\_biodiversity.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/gender/doc/fs_uicn_biodiversity.pdf)

9 Pörtner, H.-O., Roberts, D. C., et al. (2022). Climate Change 2022. Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Summary for Policymakers of Working Group II contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 27th February 2022. Available [https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGII\\_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf](https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg2/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf).

10 IIED (2018) The role, influence and impact of women in biodiversity conservation. See [www.iied.org/role-influence-impact-women-biodiversity-conservation](http://www.iied.org/role-influence-impact-women-biodiversity-conservation)

11 *Ibid.*

12 UN Women (2021) Explainer: Everything you need to know about equal pay. See: [www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/explainer-everything-you-need-to-know-about-equal-pay](http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/explainer-everything-you-need-to-know-about-equal-pay)

13 FAO (2011) Women in Agriculture: Closing the Gender Gap for Development. See [www.fao.org/3/i2050e/i2050e.pdf](http://www.fao.org/3/i2050e/i2050e.pdf)

**OUR CASE**  
**SUCCESS IS NOT**  
**POSSIBLE WITHOUT**  
**GENDER EQUALITY**

and account for around 80% of climate refugees<sup>14</sup>.

These inequalities are much more acute for women from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. Facing multiple and overlapping forms of discrimination and marginalization<sup>15</sup>, IPLCs women are not only denied fundamental rights, such as self-determination, but are even more excluded from decision making processes, in some cases within their very own communities. While a specific human rights framework that simultaneously accounts for IPLCs self-determination and human rights violations of IPLCs<sup>16</sup> women might not be within the scope of the global biodiversity framework, the GBF in itself can play a role on this matter as a key element of pursuing the goals and objectives of the CBD. IPLCs are vital actors to achieve most goals and targets of the post-2020 GBF, as IPLCs territories contain 80% of known biodiversity (see [Avaaz's paper on IPLCs](#)).

Globalization and economic liberalization has exacerbated challenges for IPLC women. In most IPLC cultures, women play central roles in the sustainable use of biodiversity, and they pay a very high price in the struggles against powerful political and economic actors that want to steal their lands and resources. According to Global Witness *“Over 1 in 10 of the defenders killed in 2020 were women. Whilst the recorded killings against women appear lower, those who act and speak out may also face gender-specific threats, including sexual violence”*<sup>17</sup>.

Enabling gender equality should thus not be seen as a mere add-on to sustainable development policies: it is a key transformative question. Only by enabling more rights and equal

status for those at the forefront of struggles will we be able to foster the changes that we all need for a sustainable future.

**A GROWING INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION THAT HAS YET TO TRANSLATE INTO TANGIBLE RESULTS ON THE GROUND**

The idea of recognizing that women's unique perspectives, capacities, risks, needs and ideas are assessed and integrated into policies and initiatives at all levels, has been increasingly recognized within international fora<sup>18,19,20,21</sup>. In the last couple of years, we have witnessed some efforts to fit girl's and women's rights into the international environmental agenda. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda reflects this as well, especially in the following targets of the Sustainable Development Goals adopted universally by all UN members:

**Target 1.4:** by 2030 ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership, and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services including microfinance

**Target 2.3:** By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

14 Women's Forum for the Economy and Society (2021) It's important we recognize the links between Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Gender. See [www.womens-forum.com/2021/09/24/its-important-we-recognise-the-links-between-climate-change-biodiversity-loss-and-gender/](http://www.womens-forum.com/2021/09/24/its-important-we-recognise-the-links-between-climate-change-biodiversity-loss-and-gender/)

15 Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women Holds General Discussion on the Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls (2021). Available at: [www.ungeva.org/en/news-media/meeting-summary/2021/06/committee-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women](http://www.ungeva.org/en/news-media/meeting-summary/2021/06/committee-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women)

16 Kuokkanen, Rauna (2012) Self-Determination and Indigenous Women's Rights at the Intersection of International Human Rights. Available at [www.corteidh.or.cr/tablas/r28090.pdf](http://www.corteidh.or.cr/tablas/r28090.pdf)

17 Global Witness (2021) Environmental Activists: Last line of defense. See: [www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/environmental-activists/last-line-defence/](http://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/environmental-activists/last-line-defence/)

18 OHCHR (1979) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Available at [www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/cedaw.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/ProfessionalInterest/cedaw.pdf)

19 UN Women (2014) The Beijing Platform for Action. Available at [www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/PFA\\_E\\_Final\\_WEB.pdf](http://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/PFA_E_Final_WEB.pdf)

20 Idem. Paragraph 253c Women and the Environment

21 UNFCCC (2019) The UNFCCC Gender Plan of Action. Available at [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2019\\_13a01E.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2019_13a01E.pdf)

## OUR CASE SUCCESS IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT GENDER EQUALITY

**Target 5.a:** Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

More recently, the 2017 Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/Res/34/20<sup>22</sup> highlighted the “critical link between biodiversity and human rights and acknowledge that degradation of biodiversity often result from and reinforce existing forms of discrimination that need to be addressed”. This of course includes women's rights, pervasive gender inequalities, uneven power relations and patriarchal systems that limit women's rights, leadership and opportunities throughout society - including in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

2020 was intended to be a “super year for nature and biodiversity”<sup>23</sup>, and ground-breaking for gender equality as it marked the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action. But according to the 2021 UN Sustainable Development Goals Report<sup>24</sup>, COVID-19 has set back human development by as much as 20 years. Women are bearing the brunt of this crisis: 40% of all employed women -510 million women globally- work in hard-hit sectors, while 72% of female domestic workers have lost their jobs<sup>25</sup>.

The international community has thus so far failed to turn commitments into actions. As a consequence, women's role as key actors for biodiversity is yet to be considered in policy planning in most national contexts. If development policies are to be sustainable, they must consider the existing gender disparities in all areas: employment, poverty, family life, health, education, public life and decision-making bodies, and of course, biodiversity protection, conservation and

sustainable use. Parties need to set in motion the existing mechanisms - and develop new ones - and develop new ones- if they are really committed to gender equality and women's rights, and achieving the targets and goals of the post-2020 GBF.

### WHAT SHOULD AND CAN BE DONE IN GENEVA

In this context, merely mentioning “women's full and effective participation in the implementation...” throughout the post-2020 GBF text is not enough. They need to be “fully and effectively” participating at all steps of policy cycles: in the planning, implementation, and review. We also need a stronger focus on areas such as women's land access, control, and ownership, but also on access to information and technology; recognition of women's roles, responsibilities and capacities; and enabling women, especially Indigenous women, to be legal recipients of financial, technological and capacity building support. We should also consider that informed, full and effective participation of women, especially Indigenous women, at all levels of biodiversity policy-making and its implementation and monitoring, has connections to international mechanisms aimed at advancing women's rights in all areas of development and wellbeing. Avaaz is suggesting language to be included throughout the post-2020 GBF that we believe could help reflect these points.

The post-2020 GPA is a crucial document too, and it must be seen as a central instrument to translate words into action. Avaaz is making proposals to enhance its ambition, and to fill important gaps, notably on the data that we need to more properly monitor progress on these different issues.

22 UN HRC (2017) Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/Res/34/20. Available at <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1315130?ln=en>

23 UN Water (2021) 2020 a year for nature and biodiversity. Available at [www.unwater.org/2020-a-year-for-nature-and-biodiversity/](http://www.unwater.org/2020-a-year-for-nature-and-biodiversity/)

24 UN Stats (2021) Sustainable Development Goals Report. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/>

25 UN Docs (2020) Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Available at: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N19/417/93/PDF/N1941793.pdf>



MÁS DE  
**28.000 MENSAJES**  
DE APOYO DE AMÉRICA LATINA  
A LAS VÍCTIMAS DE  
**SEPUR ZARCO**

**AVAAZ**

GUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala— Avaaz campaigners shared solidarity messages from all Latin America for the survivors of sexual slavery, joining in their plea for justice, including access to land, a health-care clinic and measures to end the abject poverty their community has endured across generations. During the 36-year-long Guatemalan civil war, Indigenous women were systematically raped and enslaved by the military in a small community near the Sepur Zarco outpost. In Sepur Zarco, Mayan Q'eqchi' peasant leaders had angered local landowners by fighting for the legal titles to the land upon which they had lived and worked for years.

# CONCLUSION

## WOMEN AND MEN OF THE WORLD, UNITE

If we empower women, we empower men, youth and children, and we empower action for biodiversity. As stated by the new President of the IUCN: *“There are 7.8 billion people on this planet, and we have 10 billion species. If just one individual out of 10 is empowered to protect a potentially endangered species, we have addressed the problem. We need to recreate this collective responsibility, a ‘House of Wisdom’ for the modern era that brings together people from all walks of life: mothers, farmers, caregivers, scholars, scientists, indigenous community members, and young people - to protect our planet for present and future generations of humanity.”*<sup>26</sup>

In Geneva, we have the chance to transform systems of inequality. Another generation of women should not wait for equality. In fact, none should. Without the support of half of the world's population, we have little chance of reaching any goals.

<sup>26</sup> Al Mubarak, Razan (2021) Why women have an essential role in biodiversity conservation. World Economic Forum. Available at [www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/04/women-essential-role-biodiversity-conservation/](https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/04/women-essential-role-biodiversity-conservation/)



BOGOTA, Colombia.— Avaaz activists filed a criminal complaint with the Human Rights Office of the Prosecutor's Office, warning that if deforestation continues in the buffer areas of the Chiribiquete National Park, these criminal actions would put this UNESCO natural and cultural heritage site at risk. At the current rate of deforestation, Colombia is losing the equivalent of 293 soccer fields per day.

# TELL US WHAT YOU THINK, GET INVOLVED!

WRITE TO US: [BIODIVERSITY@AVAAZ.ORG](mailto:BIODIVERSITY@AVAAZ.ORG)

- Do you think that the current CBD gender plan of action undertakes to mainstream or incorporate gender considerations into biodiversity policymaking?
- If so, what elements would you remove?
- If not, what do you think is missing?
- Does your country have a national gender strategy?
- If you do have a national gender strategy, does the Ministry of Environment/ Environmental Agency contribute to the national gender strategy implementation?
- Are there specific gender-biodiversity issues your government focuses on?
- What are they?
- Does your country collect gender-disaggregated data related to the biodiversity and/or biodiversity policies?
- Are there plans or upcoming initiatives to collect such information?
- Does your government take measures to ensure and/or track gender-balanced participation in decision-making related to biodiversity?
- If so, can you give us some examples?

# ANNEX

## LANGUAGE PROPOSALS

The purpose of this document is to inform negotiators, stakeholders, CBD National Focal Points, of the recommendations of Avaaz for the development of the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework

New language proposed by Avaaz is in **green and bold** and deletions are in ~~red and strikethrough~~

# LANGUAGE PROPOSALS FOR THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK (OEWG-3)

ORIGINAL TEXT <a href="#">CBD/WG2020/3/3</a>	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
<p><b>B. THE PURPOSE</b></p> <p><b>Section B, Para. 2</b></p> <p>2. The framework aims to galvanize urgent and transformative action by Governments and all of society, including Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, civil society, and businesses, to achieve the outcomes it sets out in its vision, mission, goals and targets, and thereby to contribute to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols, and other biodiversity related multilateral agreements, processes and instruments.</p>	<p><b>Section B, Para. 2</b></p> <p>The framework aims to galvanize urgent and transformative action by Governments and all of society, including Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, <b>with special attention to Indigenous women</b>, as well as <b>all</b> women, <b>girls</b>, youth, civil society, <del>and</del> businesses <b>and the financial sector</b>, to achieve the outcomes it sets out in its vision, mission, goals and targets, and thereby to contribute to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols, and other biodiversity related multilateral agreements, processes and instruments.</p>	<p>The financial sector should be explicitly mentioned because it is included in the scope of Goal D and is present in the draft decision (paragraph 6). Avaaz also feels that a specific mention of Indigenous women is relevant as it will advance their inclusion in concrete actions for Parties to take, so that these relevant actors are not left out of the post-2020 GBF.</p> <p>Gender equality is a human right enshrined in a number of declarations and conventions, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).</p> <p><b>Gender equality and women’s empowerment, together with the recognition of rights, should be the foundation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (as they are for development).</b></p>

ORIGINAL TEXT [CBD/WG2020/3/3](#)

## SUGGESTED EDITS

## RATIONALE

3. The framework aims to facilitate implementation, which will be primarily through activities at the national level, with supporting action at the subnational, regional and global levels. Specifically, it provides a global, outcome-oriented framework for the development of national, and as appropriate, regional, goals and targets and, as necessary, the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans to achieve these, and to facilitate regular monitoring and review of progress at the global level. It also aims to promote synergies and coordination between the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, and other relevant processes.

3. The framework aims to facilitate implementation, which will be primarily through activities at the national level, with supporting action at the subnational, regional and global levels. Specifically, it provides a global, **gender-responsive and** outcome-oriented framework for the development of national, and as appropriate, regional, goals and targets and, as necessary, the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans to achieve these, and to facilitate regular monitoring and review of progress at the global level. It also aims to promote synergies and coordination between the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, and other relevant processes.

**Furthermore**, in [CEDAW](#) all signatory governments are bound to take action to promote and protect the rights of women; they agree to include the principle of equality in legislation and ensure it is operationalized nationally.

It reads: **Article 8** States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure to women, (on equal terms with men and without any discrimination) the opportunity to represent their Governments at the international level, and participation in the work of international organizations.

**Article 14 1.** States Parties shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women, and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families, including their work in non-monetized sectors of the economy, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the application of the provisions of the present Convention to women in rural areas.

## D. THEORY OF CHANGE

## Para 7

The theory of change for the framework acknowledges the need for appropriate recognition of gender equality, women's empowerment, youth, gender-responsive approaches and the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the implementation of this framework. Further, it is built upon the recognition that its implementation will be done in partnership among organizations at the global, national and local levels to leverage ways to build a momentum for success. It will be implemented taking a rights-based approach and recognizing the principle of intergenerational equity.

## Para 7

The theory of change for the framework acknowledges the need for appropriate recognition of gender equality, women's empowerment, youth, gender-responsive approaches and the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, **including Indigenous women**, in the **planning, implementation and review** of this framework, **as well as the recognition and protection of their rights over lands, territories, and resources**. Further, it is built upon the recognition that its implementation will be done in partnership among organizations at the global, national and local levels to leverage ways to build a momentum for success. It will be implemented taking a rights-based approach and recognizing the principle of intergenerational equity.

A major challenge for IPLCs is the lack of recognition and protection of their rights. **This is even worse for Indigenous women.**

If the Theory of Change is to be understood as a rigorous yet participatory process whereby groups and project stakeholders identify the conditions they believe are necessary to meet their long-term goals, the full and effective participation of key stakeholders, **including IPLCs - especially Indigenous women** - should not be limited to the implementation of the post-2020 GBF.

IPLCs -especially Indigenous women- must be involved in the planning, implementation and review of the post-2020 GBF. This is in addition to the recognition of their right to self-determination, and protection of their rights over lands, territories and resources, as well as respect for their free, prior and informed consent.

ORIGINAL TEXT [CBD/WG2020/3/3](#)

## SUGGESTED EDITS

## RATIONALE

**F. 2050 Goals and 2030 Milestones, Parra. 11****Goal B**

Nature's contributions to people are valued, maintained or enhanced through conservation and sustainable use supporting the global development agenda for the benefit of all;

**Milestone B.2**

The long-term sustainability of all categories of nature's contributions to people is ensured, with those currently in decline restored, contributing to each of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

**F. 2050 Goals and 2030 Milestones, Parra. 11****Goal B**

Nature's contributions to people are valued, maintained or enhanced through **equitable and fair conservation and sustainable use supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals sustainable development agenda** for the benefit of all;

**Milestone B.2**

The **long-term** sustainability of all categories of nature's contributions to people is ensured **in the short, medium and long term**, with those currently in decline restored **with a gender-responsive and rights-oriented approach**, contributing to each of the **relevant** Sustainable Development Goals **and the right to a healthy, safe, equitable, clean and sustainable development.**

If, as Avaaz understands it, the “global development agenda” referred to are synonymous with the 2030 Agenda, then they should be identified as such.

Regarding the lack of indicators in the monitoring framework for milestones B.1. and B.2 under Goal B, Avaaz considers this could be an excellent opportunity to design gender-responsive indicators, which are pivotal for setting up and financing permanent, interdisciplinary databases aimed at providing sex-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive national and transnational data, which will provide fundamental knowledge to better assess gender and biodiversity correlations, effectively tackling biodiversity management and conservation in full respect and promotion of women and girls' rights, and design stronger NBSAPs capable of promoting solid gender-sensitive programmes.

Furthermore, such indicators will deliver information or could be the same as those in different SDGs indicators, such as:

- 1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure
- 5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure

ORIGINAL TEXT <a href="#">CBD/WG2020/3/3</a>	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control</li> </ul> <p>If Milestones are to be used for assessing progress from 2030 to 2050, sustainability of any action should be assessed along the way, not only in the long term. <b>Furthermore, a gender-responsive and rights-oriented approach is sine qua non to effectively contribute to the SDGs.</b></p>
<p><b>Milestone C.2</b></p> <p>Non-monetary benefits, such as the participation of providers, including holders of traditional knowledge, in research and development, has increased.</p>	<p><b>Milestone C.2</b></p> <p>Non-monetary benefits, such as the participation of providers, including holders of traditional knowledge, <b>including Indigenous women, in capacity building,</b> research and development, has increased.</p>	<p>Avaaz considers it essential to the success of Goal C to include strict transparency and compliance requirements.</p> <p>The relevance of Indigenous women as vital actors in all schemes regarding biodiversity conservation and sustainable use has been commented on earlier in this document.</p>
<p><b>Goal D</b></p> <p>The gap between available financial and other means of implementation, and those necessary to achieve the 2050 Vision, is closed.</p> <p><b>Milestone D.1</b></p> <p>Adequate financial resources to implement the framework are available and deployed, progressively closing the financing gap up to at least US \$700 billion per year by 2030.</p> <p><b>Milestone D.2</b></p> <p>Adequate other means, including capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer to implement the framework to 2030 are available and deployed.</p>	<p><b>Goal D</b></p> <p>The gap between available financial and other means of implementation, and those necessary to achieve the 2050 Vision, is closed; <b>and available financial and other means of implementation equitably distributed.</b></p> <p><b>Milestone D.1</b></p> <p>Adequate <b>and gender-responsive</b> financial resources to implement the framework are available and deployed, progressively closing the financing gap up to at least US \$700 billion per year by 2030.</p> <p><b>Milestone D.2</b></p> <p>Adequate other means, including capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer to implement the framework to 2030 are available, <b>equitably accessible</b> and deployed.</p>	<p><b>The framework, according to its vision, has to have a gender-responsive and rights-oriented approach.</b></p> <p>Avaaz, in line with recommendations from the CBD Women Caucus, strongly advocates for a human rights approach through a gender lens, in order to ensure the encompassing implementation of SDG 5.</p>

## NEW TEXT: AVAAZ SUGGEST ADDING A NEW GOAL

**GOAL E.**

**Ensure equitable, full, and effective participation in planning, implementation, review and decision-making related to biodiversity protection, conservation and sustainable use, of all stakeholders, in particular Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, women and girls, particularly that of Indigenous women, as well as the youth, while ensuring transparency and accountability in all processes and at all levels.**

**E. 1. By 2025, traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities are fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, subject to their free, prior and informed consent.**

**E.2. By 2025, responsibility and transparency mechanisms are fully developed and used to monitor and review the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.**

Avaaz suggests an additional goal. As in previous submissions, Avaaz points out these rights and obligations are key to achieve all goals and targets included in the framework Draft. This would also promote synergies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Avaaz welcomes that the importance of IPLCs and other vulnerable groups equitable participation in decision-making related to biodiversity, is no longer merely mentioned in a very last target, and welcomes the fact the importance of their rights are reflected in the Kunming Declaration.

Avaaz considers that a specific mention to Indigenous women will revamp this new approach and foster their inclusion in concrete actions for Parties to take, so as not to leave these relevant actors out of the post-2020 GBF.

The participation of all relevant stakeholders, especially IPLCs, and in particular women, as First Responders in the field, in the planning, and in the implementation of the GBF is essential to achieve the desired change. And yet again, Avaaz points out that safeguarding and ensuring respect for human rights, including IPLCs and women's rights, the rights-based approach mentioned in the draft text, are achieved by extending their participation in designing, planning, negotiating, and agreeing on the GBF. This would be in harmony with SDG 5.5 and 16.7 of the 2030 Agenda, which addresses the need for responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making when calling for the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. It will also be in harmony with article 15.2 of CEDAW.

**G. 2030 action targets, parra 12**

The framework has 21 action-oriented targets for urgent action over the decade to 2030. The actions set out in each target need to be initiated immediately and completed by 2030. Together, the results will enable achievement of the 2030 milestones and of the outcome-oriented goals for 2050. Actions to reach these targets should be implemented consistently and in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socioeconomic conditions.

**Target 1.**

Ensure that all land and sea areas globally are under integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning addressing land- and sea-use change, retaining existing intact and wilderness areas.

**G. 2030 action targets, parra 12**

The framework has 21 action-oriented targets for urgent action over the decade to 2030. The actions set out in each target need to be initiated immediately and completed by 2030. Together, the results will enable achievement of the 2030 milestones and of the outcome-oriented goals for 2050. Actions to reach these targets should be implemented consistently and in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and other relevant international obligations, **including human rights and equality obligations,** taking into account national socioeconomic conditions.

**Target 1.**

Ensure that all land and sea areas globally are under integrated ~~biodiversity-inclusive~~ spatial planning **that takes biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into account,** developed under **rights-based and equitable governance principles,** addressing land- and sea-use change, retaining existing intact and wilderness areas, **and recognizing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, including indigenous women, over lands, territories, waters and resources.**

Avaaz supports a human rights-based approach through a gender lens in the context of biodiversity conservation, which ensures that the management and governance of biodiversity, as well as its related policies, do not violate human rights and promotes gender equality in accordance with SDG 4.7 of the 2030 Agenda.

Avaaz welcomes the emphasis on the need for better spatial planning over the whole planet, and believes greater clarity is needed about how biodiversity will be incorporated. Also that spatial planning is rooted in rights-based and equitable governance principles and strongly highlights the places under IPLC management.

**Target 3.**

Ensure that at least 30 per cent globally of land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

**Target 3.**

Target 3. Ensure that at least ~~30~~ **50** per cent of land areas and of sea areas **globally**, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably **managed and governed**, ecologically representative, and well-connected systems of protected areas, ICCAs and other effective area-based conservation measures and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes, **subject to the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities who own, manage or occupy any of the aforementioned areas.**

Avaaz also puts forth the inclusion of “Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories” (ICCAs) as an opportunity to align this target with scientific evidence reporting the need to conserve and protect half the planet. In the last decades, ICCAs have become known and recognized as essential features for the conservation of nature, sustainable livelihoods, the realization of collective rights and responsibilities, and the wellness of living beings on our planet. They include cases of continuation, revival, or modification of traditional practices, some of which are of ancient origin, and also include new initiatives, such as restoration of ecosystems and innovative uses of resources employed by IPLCs in the face of threats and of opportunities.

ICCAs help to conserve critical ecosystems and threatened species, maintain essential ecosystem functions, and provide corridors and linkages for animal and gene movement, including between protected areas; and among other many local, regional, and global benefits, ICCAs play a crucial role in securing the rights of indigenous peoples & local communities to their land and natural resources through local governance - de jure and de facto.

The global coverage of ICCAs has been conservatively estimated to be about 13% of the terrestrial surface of the planet. Globally, 400-800 million hectares of forest are owned/administered by communities, and land and resources in other ecosystems are also under community control.

ORIGINAL TEXT [CBD/WG2020/3/3](#)

## SUGGESTED EDITS

## RATIONALE

**Target 4.**

Ensure active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, including through *ex situ* conservation, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict.

## Target 4.

Target 4. Ensure active management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and the genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, including through **in situ conservation and through** *ex situ* conservation **when free, prior, and informed consent has been ensured to access species and genetic resources.**, ~~and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict.~~

As previously commented and suggested by Avaaz, *in situ* conservation practices, especially regarding agriculture and traditional agricultural practices, should be considered when biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and utilization is mentioned throughout this document. Excluding *in situ* conservation seriously limits IPLCs role in biodiversity conservation, including in the conservation of natural and genetic resources important for food and agriculture. The GBF must reflect the imperative strategic role played by IPLCs in *in situ* protection, conservation, and sustainable use of biodiversity which have real implications for our global food, health, and ecological security. This collaboration should be guaranteed and integrated across the entire Post-2020 Framework.

Furthermore, “*ex situ*” conservation practices, when referring to genetic resources, should ensure that access is linked to binding benefit sharing.

Regarding this second part of Target 4 (“... and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce human-wildlife conflict”), Avaaz suggests moving it to Target 5.

**Target 8.**

Minimize the impact of climate change on biodiversity, contribute to mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem-based approaches, contributing at least 10 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e per year to global mitigation efforts, and ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity.

## Target 8.

Minimize the impact of climate change on biodiversity, contribute to mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem-based approaches, **especially those including and recognising the knowledge, experience, cultures, and rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, in particular women**, contributing at least 10 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e per year to global mitigation efforts, and ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity, **especially in areas of particular importance for ecosystem services, including carbon storage, water provisioning, sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience.**

Avaaz proposes new text to focus efforts to combat climate change while protecting biodiversity under ecosystem-based and culturally appropriate approaches, and promoting synergies with other MEAs, in particular the UNFCCC and UNCCD.

Avaaz recalls [paragraph 66 of the most recent decision 1/CP.26 at the UNFCCC COP 26](#), which says: “66. *Emphasizes the important role of indigenous peoples’ and local communities’ culture and knowledge in effective action on climate change, and urges Parties to actively involve Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in designing and implementing climate action and to engage with the second three-year workplan for implementing the functions of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, for 2022-2024;*”

ORIGINAL TEXT <a href="#">CBD/WG2020/3/3</a>	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
Target 8.	Target 8.	Furthermore, Avaaz is aligned with Women4Biodiversity's position: several studies have identified the importance of women, especially rural and Indigenous as powerful agents of biodiversity protection, because of their unique roles and possession of knowledge on natural resources within rural and Indigenous communities. Moreover, this is in line with the purposes of the UNFCCC LCIPP Platform goals.

## 2. MEETING PEOPLE'S NEEDS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE USE AND BENEFIT-SHARING

### Target 9.

Ensure benefits, including nutrition, food security, medicines, and livelihoods for people especially for the most vulnerable through sustainable management of wild terrestrial, freshwater and marine species and protecting customary sustainable use by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

### Target 9.

Target 9. Ensure **equitable** benefits, including nutrition, food **security, medicines, and livelihoods for people especially for the most vulnerable through sustainable management of wild terrestrial, freshwater and marine species and protecting customary sustainable use by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and their rights over lands, waters, territories and resources, with special attention to Indigenous women.**

Avaaz suggests to make it more explicit that protecting customary sustainable use of IPLCs requires protecting their rights, in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and respecting their right to self determination.

Avaaz emphasizes that Indigenous peoples are key stakeholders in SDGs, and in order to ensure a successful framework, Parties should ensure this target is aligned with the vision of "leaving no-one behind", therefore making explicit that IPLCs land rights, especially those of women, are taken into account. Furthermore, the relevance of Indigenous women as vital actors in all schemes regarding biodiversity **conservation and sustainable use has been commented on before.**

### Target 10.

Ensure all areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, increasing the productivity and resilience of these production systems.

### Target 10.

Ensure all areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed **sustainably**, in **particular** through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, **protecting and promoting traditional practices, and with the free, prior and informed consent if the aforementioned activities take place in areas managed, governed or owned by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, towards** increasing the productivity and resilience of these production systems.

The new text Avaaz is suggesting, is in line with FAO's recognition of **Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems**" (GIAHS).

ORIGINAL TEXT <a href="#">CBD/WG2020/3/3</a>	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
<p><b>Target 11.</b></p> <p>Maintain and enhance nature’s contributions to regulation of air quality, quality and quantity of water, and protection from hazards and extreme events for all people.</p>	<p><b>Target 11.</b></p> <p>Maintain and enhance nature’s contributions to regulation of air quality, quality and quantity of water, and protection from hazards and extreme events for all people <b>prioritizing those in vulnerable situations, especially women and girls.</b></p>	<p>A vast amount of studies have demonstrated that women and girls, people with disabilities and people in extreme poverty, are those who most suffer from environmental degradation and related disasters. The proposed language wants to emphasize the need for a special focus on these social groups.</p>
<p><b>Target 13.</b></p> <p>Implement measures at global level and in all countries to facilitate access to genetic resources and to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, and as relevant, of associated traditional knowledge, including through mutually agreed terms and prior and informed consent.</p>	<p><b>Target 13.</b></p> <p>Target 13. Implement measures at global level and in all countries to ensure that <del>facilitate</del> access to genetic resources <b>is attained through mutually agreed terms</b> and <del>and to ensure also ensure</del> the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the <del>use</del> <b>utilization</b> of genetic resources, and as relevant, of associated traditional knowledge, including through <del>mutually agreed terms and free,</del> prior, and informed consent.</p>	<p>In line with the spirit of the Nagoya Protocol, and with the purpose of safeguarding that IPLCs interests and rights over their <b>natural resources are fully respected, Avaaz proposes this new text in line with access and benefit sharing specifications previously agreed by CBD Parties, where the reference to “facilitation” is addressed in the context of Parties facilitating the involvement of indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector in capacity building.</b> The proposed rewording also puts the accent on the importance of prior and informed consent.</p>

### 3. TOOLS AND SOLUTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINSTREAMING

<p><b>Target 14.</b></p> <p>Fully integrate biodiversity values into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies, accounts, and assessments of environmental impacts at all levels of government and across all sectors of the economy, ensuring that all activities and financial flows are aligned with biodiversity values</p>	<p><b>Target 14.</b></p> <p>Fully integrate biodiversity values <b>and goals</b> into policies, regulations, planning, development processes, poverty reduction <b>and gender equality</b> strategies, accounts, and assessments of <b>cultural, environmental, social and human rights</b> impacts at all levels of government and across all sectors of the economy, ensuring that all activities and financial flows are aligned with biodiversity <del>values</del> <b>and goals and commitments, and the principle of free, prior and informed consent from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.</b></p>	<p>This goal should be SMART, and should also include a specific mention to FPIC, to ensure that biodiversity mainstream takes into account the rights and values of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. This goal should also need to reflect the goal of a gender-responsive and human rights-based approach of the GBF.</p>
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ORIGINAL TEXT <a href="#">CBD/WG2020/3/3</a>	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
<p><b>Target 20.</b></p> <p>Ensure that relevant knowledge, including the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities with their free, prior, and informed consent, guides decision-making for the effective management of biodiversity, enabling monitoring, and by promoting awareness, education and research.</p>	<p><b>Target 20.</b></p> <p>Ensure that relevant knowledge, including the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, <b>particularly of Indigenous women</b>, with their free, prior, and informed consent, guides decision-making for the effective management of biodiversity, enabling monitoring, and by promoting awareness, education and research.</p>	<p>Avaaz welcomes the knowledge inclusivity reflected in this target but notes that collective work is needed to make it SMART.</p> <p>The relevance of Indigenous women as vital actors in all schemes regarding biodiversity conservation and sustainable use has been commented on before.</p>
<p><b>Target 21.</b></p> <p>Ensure equitable and effective participation in decision-making related to biodiversity by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and respect their rights over lands, territories and resources, as well as by women and girls, and youth.</p>	<p><b>Target 21.</b></p> <p>Ensure equitable, <b>full, and effective and gender-sensitive</b> participation <del>by all</del> in decision-making related to biodiversity <b>and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and especially</b> by:</p> <p>(a) Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, <b>with special attention to Indigenous women, and</b> respecting their rights over lands, territories, and resources, <b>as well as the principle of free, prior and informed consent;</b></p> <p>(b) <del>as well as by</del> women and girls, <b>in particular regarding access to justice and information; and</b></p> <p>(c) youth <del>and children, ensuring their empowerment and promoting intergenerational equity.</del></p>	<p>Avaaz welcomes the spirit of Target 21 and believes on one hand it has to be more inclusive, but on the other it must be more specific regarding the concerns of the social groups it mentions. It's also important to emphasize the principle of <b>free, prior and informed consent as in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</b>. The relevance of Indigenous women as vital actors in all schemes regarding biodiversity conservation and sustainable use has been commented on before.</p>

## NEW TEXT: AVAAZ SUGGEST ADDING A NEW STANDALONE TARGET 22

### Target 22

**Ensure women and girl's equitable access and benefits from conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as their informed and effective participation at all level of policy and decision making related to biodiversity.**

Avaaz is supporting the language suggestion presented by the Women Caucus. [UN Women and UNEP-WCMC](#) identified available (already developed) SDG indicators that could be used to monitor progress towards this target. The indicators identified focus on secure tenure rights of land as secure tenure rights are linked to access to resources and related benefits. Lastly, SDG indicator 5.5.1 (b) is a high level indicator with a focus on women representation in local government.

# LANGUAGE PROPOSALS FOR THE FIRST DRAFT OF THE POST-2020 GENDER PLAN OF ACTION

ORIGINAL TEXT <a href="#">CBD/SBI/3/4/ADD.2/REV.2</a>	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
<p>Row 8 (Column A: Objectives, page 7)</p> <p>1.4 Promote women’s empowerment, through access to safe, quality and paid employment in public and private institutions, ensuring equality in salaries, and entrepreneurial opportunities for women in biodiversity-based supply</p>	<p><b>Row 8 (Column A: Objectives, page 7)</b></p> <p>1.4 “<b>Ensure</b> <del>Promote</del> women’s empowerment, through access to safe, quality and <b>equal pay for equal value of work</b> in public and private institutions, <b>securing</b> equality in salaries, and entrepreneurial opportunities for women in biodiversity-based supply”</p>	<p>In line with the reference under <a href="#">ILO convention C100</a>, Avaaz believes that there is still a lack of gender responsive structure to ensure women's economic opportunities, including equal pay and living wage, sharing of unpaid care burden and control over natural resources.</p>
<p><b>Row 10 (Column A: Objectives, page 8)</b> 1.5 Identify and eliminate, prevent and respond, to all forms of gender- based discrimination and violence related to control, ownership and access to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, including protecting women environmental human rights defenders</p>	<p><b>Row 10 (Column A: Objectives, page 8)</b> 1.5 Identify and eliminate, prevent and respond; to all forms of <b>discrimination and violence against women and girls, especially to Indigenous women and girls</b> related to control, ownership and access to <del>sustainable use and conservation of</del> biodiversity, including protecting women environmental <del>human rights</del> defenders.</p>	<p>For Avaaz is critical to make a clear recognition about how drivers of biodiversity loss are linked to different forms of violence against women and girls, highlighting the increased vulnerability of Indigenous women and girls.</p> <p>Furthermore, women’s bodily autonomy and safety is a right and integral to women’s ability to participate effectively.</p> <p>Finally, Avaaz considers that this approach should be focused on general access to biodiversity, not only to biodiversity that is sustainably conserved or used.</p>
<p><b>Row 10 (Column B: indicative actions, page 8)</b> Develop and deploy data, tools, and strategies, to understand and address gender-based violence and biodiversity linkages, including with focus on the protection of women environmental human rights defenders, to support biodiversity policy and programming development and implementation</p>	<p><b>Row 10 (Column B: indicative actions, page 8)</b> (section B): “Develop and deploy <b>data disaggregated by sex</b>, tools, and strategies, to understand and address gender-based violence and biodiversity linkages, including with focus on the protection of women environmental human rights defenders, to support biodiversity policy and programming development and implementation”</p>	<p>Avaaz finds it relevant to highlight the collection of sex-disaggregated data because it reveals crucial gender-related systemic dynamics. If we are aiming to achieve a gender-responsive policy formulation, and to fully fulfill SDGs, we have to address the alarming gaps in gender-sensitive data related to the specific linkages between gender and environment.</p>

ORIGINAL TEXT <a href="#">CBD/SBI/3/4/ADD.2/REV.2</a>	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
Row 10 (Column B: indicative actions, page 8)..	Row 10 (Column B: indicative actions, page 8)...	<p>“An analysis of the indicators in the Global SDG Indicators Database (<a href="https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database">unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database</a>) reveals that for 4 of the 17 goals, less than half of 194 countries or areas have internationally comparable data. This lack of country-level data is particularly worrisome for Goal 5 (gender equality), where on average only about 4 in 10 countries have data available. Country-level data deficits are also significant in areas related to sustainable production and consumption (Goal 12) and to climate action (Goal 13). What’s more, even countries with available data have only a small number of observations over time, making it difficult for policymakers to monitor progress and identify trends.” (<a href="#">See link</a>)</p>
<p><b>Row 10 (Column C: Possible Deliverables, page 8)</b> Data and/or knowledge products, campaigns, tools, webinars, on the links between gender-based violence and biodiversity, produced and made available to Parties and stakeholders</p>	<p><b>Row 10 (Column C: Possible Deliverables, page 8)</b> Data <b>disaggregated by sex</b> and/or knowledge products, campaigns, tools, webinars, on the links between gender-based violence and biodiversity, produced and made available to Parties and stakeholders</p>	<p>Same as above.</p>
<p><b>Row 12 (Column A: Objectives, Page 9)</b></p> <p>2.1 Increase opportunities and strengthen the meaningful and effective participation and leadership of women at all levels of action, engagement and decision-making related to biodiversity.</p>	<p><b>Row 12 (Column A: Objectives, Page 9)</b> 2.1 <b>Ensure opportunities and strengthen the informed, full and effective participation and leadership of women, including Indigenous women at all levels of action, engagement and decision-making related to biodiversity, as appropriate.</b></p>	<p>Avaaz strongly believes that women's rights and gender equality are an imperative requisite to successfully implement the post-2020 GBF and GPA. Informed, full and effective participation of women at all levels of policy-making implementation and monitoring should be at the basis of the transformational change we are aspiring for.</p> <p>It is also important to ensure the informed, full and effective participation of Indigenous women and girls, as an inclusive way to represent the interests, needs, values and rights of a wide constituency of women’s groups and movements related to biodiversity and its sustainable use and benefits.</p>

ORIGINAL TEXT <a href="#">CBD/SBI/3/4/ADD.2/REV.2</a>	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
<p><b>Row 12 (Column B: Indicative actions, Page 9)</b></p> <p>Convene expert group meeting to develop guidance and recommendations to address gender gaps</p>	<p><b>Row 12 (Column B: Indicative actions, Page 9)</b> (section B)</p> <p>Convene <b>an expert group meeting on women's rights</b> to develop guidance and recommendations to address gender gaps <b>in the post-2020 GBF and GPA.</b></p>	<p>Avaaz reaffirms that further guidance and recommendations of this objective must be undertaken with feminist perspective provided by expert groups on women's rights.</p>
<p><b>Row 13 (Column B: Indicative actions, page 9)</b> Apply guidance and recommendations to ensure women's informed and effective participation and equal leadership in biodiversity-related governance bodies at all levels</p>	<p><b>Row 13 (Column B: Indicative actions, page 9)</b> Apply guidance and recommendations to ensure women's informed, <b>full</b> and effective participation and equal leadership in biodiversity-related governance bodies at all levels</p>	<p>Avaaz strongly believes that women need to be "<b>fully and effectively</b>" participating from the starting point: the policy planning regarding biodiversity conservation, protection and sustainable use in the next decade, <b>as well as in the implementation of this policy and in the monitoring and assessment of its implementation.</b></p>
<p><b>Row 14 (Column A: Objectives, page 9)</b> 2.2 Enhance the meaningful and effective participation and leadership of women in processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including through the engagement of women's groups and women delegates</p>	<p><b>Row 14 (Column A: Objectives, page 9)</b> 2.2 <i>Enhance the meaningful <b>informed, full</b> and effective <b>access, influence and participation and leadership of women in processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including through the engagement of women's groups, particularly Indigenous women,</b> women's groups and women delegates"</i></p>	<p>Avaaz considers that is vital to go beyond participation, highlighting effective access and influence related to decision-making in biodiversity, especially in areas that could impact their livelihoods, culture, and rights.</p> <p>Avaaz considers that a specific mention to Indigenous women will update this objective adding coherence to the intersectional approach of the post-2020 GPA.</p> <p>The draft action areas can go much further to ensure Indigenous women are a key part of the gender plan of action, recognizing the importance of these voices historically excluded from international processes and decision making, and the relevance of their inclusion in sustainable use.</p> <p><b>The participation of women not organized in women's groups is important too.</b></p>

ORIGINAL TEXT <a href="#">CBD/SBI/3/4/ADD.2/REV.2</a>	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
<p><b>Row 14 (Column D: Proposed timelines, page 9)</b></p> <p>Timeframe: 2026</p>	<p><b>Row 14 (Column D: Proposed timelines, page 9)</b></p> <p>2.2 indicative actions to <b>2024</b></p>	<p>Avaaz considers that the informed, full and effective participation and leadership of women is already a historical debt that must be fulfilled immediately to achieve a gender-responsive and diversity respectful GPA. <b>Therefore, Avaaz recommends to speed up the timeframe to achieve objective 2.2 indicative actions to 2024.</b></p>
<p><b>Row 15 (Column B: Indicative actions, page 9)</b></p> <p>Ensure gender expertise included in all advisory and expert bodies under the Convention on Biological Diversity</p>	<p><b>Row 15 (Column B: Indicative actions, page 9)</b></p> <p>2.2: Ensure gender expertise and <b>Indigenous women traditional knowledge</b> included in all advisory and expert bodies under the Convention on Biological Diversity <b>and ad hoc groups supporting the work on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework</b></p>	<p>Avaaz considers that the expertise and traditional knowledge owned and custodied by indigenous women should be explicitly added in the indicative actions to monitor elements and language of inclusion and diversity. If we really want to achieve a gender-responsive and inclusive GPA, we have to recognize women's importance as holders of expertise and knowledge regarding biodiversity and its sustainable use.</p> <p>As stated before, for Avaaz is vital to ensure Indigenous women are a key part of the GPA, recognizing the importance of these voices historically excluded from international processes and decision making, and the relevance of their inclusion in sustainable use.</p>
<p><b>Row 15 (Column C: Possible deliverables, page 9)</b></p> <p>Gender experts/women's group representatives are included in all advisory and expert bodies/- meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity</p>	<p><b>Row 15 (Column C: Possible deliverables, page 9)</b></p> <p>Gender experts/women's group representatives, <b>women, Indigenous women and women from Local Communities</b> are included in all advisory and expert bodies/- meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity, <b>and ad hoc groups supporting the work on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.</b></p>	<p>Avaaz considers that the draft action areas can go even further to ensure Indigenous women, women from local communities and women in general, are a key part of the gender plan of action, recognizing the importance of these voices historically excluded from international processes and decision making, and the relevance of their inclusion in sustainable use.</p>

ORIGINAL TEXT <a href="#">CBD/SBI/3/4/ADD.2/REV.2</a>	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
<p><b>Row 15 (Column C: Possible deliverables, page 9)</b></p> <p>Timeframe: 2026</p>	<p><b>Row 15 (Column C: Possible deliverables, page 9)</b></p> <p>Timeframe: <b>2024</b></p>	<p>Avaaz considers that the informed, full and effective participation and leadership of women is a historical debt that must be fulfilled immediately to achieve a gender-responsive and diversity respectful GPA. Avaaz thus recommends to speed up the timeframe to achieve objective 2.2 indicative actions by 2024.</p>
<p><b>Row 16 (Column B: Indicative actions, page 10)</b> Undertake assessments to determine measures to enable women's meaningful, informed and effective participation in the new programme of work on Article 8(j) and analyse gender considerations to be addressed in this work programme</p>	<p><b>Row 16 (Column B: Indicative actions, page 10)</b></p> <p>Undertake assessments to determine measures to enable women's <del>meaningful</del> <b>informed, full</b> and effective participation, <b>especially of Indigenous women</b>, in the new programme of work on Article 8(j) and analyse gender considerations to be addressed in this work programme</p>	<p>As stated before, Avaaz strongly believes that women, especially Indigenous women, need to be "<b>fully and effectively</b>" participating from the starting point: the policy planning regarding biodiversity conservation, protection and sustainable use in the next decade.</p> <p>Avaaz understands that currently there is an important gap to systematically map, collect and analyze women's and girls' roles and activities regarding biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, including baseline and indicators rendering their contributions virtually invisible. This also applies to the analysis of the extent to which the loss of biodiversity disproportionately burdens women and girls.</p> <p>In order to achieve the <b>informed, full</b> and effective participation and leadership of Indigenous women, their traditional knowledge and the persistent and structural discriminations they face, Indigenous women must be at the top of this process.</p>

ORIGINAL TEXT [CBD/SBI/3/4/ADD.2/REV.2](#)

## SUGGESTED EDITS

## RATIONALE

**Row 16 (Column C: Possible deliverables, page 10)**

Measures to enable women's meaningful, informed and effective participation and gender considerations are incorporated in the new programme of work on Article 8(j)

**Row 16 (Column C: Possible deliverables, page 10)**

Measures to enable women's meaningful **informed, full** and effective participation, **especially of Indigenous women**, and gender considerations are incorporated in the new programme of work on [Article 8\(j\)](#)

Avaaz understands that currently there is an important gap to systematically map, collect and analyze women's and girls' roles and activities regarding biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, including baseline and indicators rendering their contributions virtually invisible. This also applies to the analysis of the extent to which the loss of biodiversity disproportionately burdens women and girls.

In order to achieve the **informed, full** and effective participation and leadership of Indigenous women, their traditional knowledge and to address the persistent and structural discriminations they face, Indigenous women must be at the top of this process.

**Row 17 (Column B: Indicative Actions, page 10)** Establish a Women's Delegate Fund to support representation and active participation of women from least developed countries and small island developing States in processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity, inviting Parties and stakeholders to provide voluntary contributions

**Row 17 (Column B: Indicative Actions, page 10)**

Establish a Women's Delegate Fund to support representation and active participation of **Indigenous women and women from local communities, as well as** women from least developed countries and small island developing States in processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity, inviting Parties and stakeholders to provide voluntary contributions.

Avaaz thinks that the CBD Women's new text will allow visibility of the linkages between women and biodiversity to the wider public, promote transparency and ensure that gender responsiveness will always be at the forefront of biodiversity conservation strategies.

**Row 17 (Column B: Indicative Actions, page 10)****New Text Suggestion**

**NEW TEXT: Provide support and strengthen CBD gender webpage to formalise a women and gender networking platform, with a view of facilitating discussions on the development of strategies on gender and biodiversity and facilitating collaborations with civil society representatives, in particular to women constituency (Women Caucus).**

*Same as above.*

ORIGINAL TEXT <a href="#">CBD/SBI/3/4/ADD.2/REV.2</a>	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
<p><b>Row 24 (Column A: Objectives, page 11) 3.2</b> Strengthen the evidence base, understanding and analysis of the gender-related impacts of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the role of women and girls as agents of change in achieving its goals and targets, including insights from traditional knowledge of women and girls from Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities</p>	<p><b>Row 24 (Column A: Objectives, page 11) 3.2</b></p> <p>3.2 Strengthened evidence base and understanding and analysis of the <b>differentiated impacts of biodiversity loss on women and men</b>, the gender-related impacts of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the role of women <b>and girls, including Indigenous women and local communities</b> as agents of change <b>in the generation of knowledge, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and access and benefit sharing</b></p>	<p>Avaaz considers that a specific mention to Indigenous women and women from local communities will revamp this objective and foster the consideration of the mentioned inputs in concrete actions for Parties to take, so as not to leave these relevant actors out of the post-2020 GPA.</p>
<p><b>Row 24 (Column B: Indicative actions, page 11)</b></p> <p>Undertake research and analysis, and collect and apply information and data, including gender-differentiated traditional knowledge, on the gender-differentiated impacts of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the role of women and girls as agents of change</p>	<p><b>Row 24 (Column B: Indicative actions, page 11)</b></p> <p>Undertake research and analysis, and collect and apply information and data, including gender-differentiated traditional knowledge, on the gender-differentiated impacts of the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the role of women and girls, <b>including Indigenous women and women from local communities</b>, as agents of change</p>	<p><i>Same as above.</i></p>
<p><b>Row 25 (Column A: Objectives, page 12) 3.3</b> Support access to information and public participation of women's organizations, networks, leaders and gender experts in the resourcing, implementation, monitoring and reporting on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework</p>	<p><b>Row 25 (Column A: Objectives, page 12)</b></p> <p>3.3 Support access to information and <del>public</del> participation of <b>indigenous women and women from local communities, all women</b>, women's organizations, networks, leaders and gender experts in the resourcing, implementation, monitoring and reporting on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework</p>	<p>Avaaz considers that it's imperative to ensure Indigenous women's participation in outreach and awareness on the global, regional and national level.</p>

ORIGINAL TEXT <a href="#">CBD/SBI/3/4/ADD.2/REV.2</a>	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
<p><b>Row 25 (Column B: Indicative actions, page 12)</b></p> <p>Organize capacity-building workshops and prepare guidelines to enhance the capacity of women’s organizations, networks and gender experts to support planning, implementation and reporting on national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related activities, including integration of gender considerations into all biodiversity programming at all levels</p>	<p><b>Row 25 (Column B: Indicative actions, page 12)</b></p> <p>Organize capacity-building workshops and prepare guidelines to enhance the capacity of <b>Indigenous women and women from local communities, all women,</b> women’s organizations, networks, and gender experts to support planning, implementation and reporting on national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related activities, including integration of gender considerations into all biodiversity programming at all levels</p>	<p><i>Same as above.</i></p>
<p><b>Row 25 (Column C: Possible Deliverables, page 12)</b></p> <p>Capacity-building workshops undertaken, and guidelines prepared</p> <p>Reporting on capacity-building initiatives and engagement of women’s organizations, networks and gender experts included in national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity</p>	<p><b>Row 25 (Column C: Possible Deliverables, page 12)</b></p> <p><i>Capacity-building workshops undertaken, and guidelines prepared. Reporting on capacity-building initiatives and engagement of <b>Indigenous women and women from local communities, all women,</b> women’s organizations, networks, and gender experts included in national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity</i></p>	<p><i>Same as above.</i></p>
<p><b>Row 28 (Column B: Indicative actions, page 13)</b></p> <p>Identify and compile best practices, lessons learned and gaps in gender responsive implementation, monitoring and reporting, with the engagement of women’s organizations and networks, and gender experts</p>	<p><b>Row 28 (Column B: Indicative actions, page 13)</b></p> <p>Identify and compile best practices, lessons learned and gaps in gender responsive implementation, monitoring and reporting, with the engagement of <b>Indigenous women and women from local communities, all women,</b> women’s organizations, networks, and gender experts</p>	<p><i>Same as above.</i></p>
<p><b>Row 28 (Column E: Responsible actors, page 13)</b></p> <p>Leading:</p> <p>Parties, women’s groups/-networks, relevant organizations, Secretariat</p>	<p><b>Row 28 (Column E: Responsible actors, page 13)</b></p> <p>Leading:</p> <p>Parties, women’s groups/-networks, <b>Indigenous women and women from local communities networks and</b> relevant organizations, Secretariat</p>	<p><i>Same as above.</i></p>

ORIGINAL TEXT <a href="#">CBD/SBI/3/4/ADD.2/REV.2</a>	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
<p><b>Row 30 (Column B: Indicative actions, page 13)</b></p> <p>Integrate reporting on women’s and girl’s contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and on the integration of gender considerations into NBSAPs, including their implementation, budgeting and reporting, in existing national reporting mechanisms</p>	<p><b>Row 30 (Column B: Indicative actions, page 13)</b></p> <p>Integrate reporting on women’s and girl’s, <b>as well as Indigenous women and girls, and women and girls from local communities</b> contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and on the integration of gender considerations into NBSAPs, including their implementation, budgeting and reporting, in existing national reporting mechanisms</p>	<p>Avaaz believes that the contributions of Indigenous women to protect and sustainably use land are still invisible. Contributions from Indigenous women and their traditional knowledge, including lessons learned and recommendations, are crucial in the development of national reports, including identifying and developing strategies at the national and local levels.</p>
<p><b>Row 30 (Column C: Possible Deliverables, page 13)</b></p> <p>National reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity include reporting on women’s and girl’s contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and on the integration of gender considerations into NBSAPs, including their implementation, budgeting and reporting</p>	<p><b>Row 30 (Column C: Possible Deliverables, page 13)</b></p> <p>National reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity include reporting on women’s and girl’s, <b>as well as Indigenous women and women from local communities</b> contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and on the integration of gender considerations into NBSAPs, including their implementation, budgeting and reporting</p>	<p><i>Same as above.</i></p>

# LANGUAGE PROPOSALS FOR THE **DRAFT POST-2020 GENDER PLAN OF ACTION** – HIGHLIGHTING LINKAGES WITH THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

ORIGINAL TEXT <a href="#">CBD/SBI/3/INF/4I</a>	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
<p><b>In section 1.1 under Link to GBF indicators (Column C, page 4)</b></p> <p>1.1 Increase women and girls’ access to ownership and control over biological resources, including land and waters, to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.</p>	<p><b>Section 1.1 under Link to GBF indicators (Column C, page 4)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure (SDG indicator 1.4.2)</li> <li>- (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure (SDG indicator 5.a.1)</li> <li>- Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women’s equal rights to land ownership and/or control (SDG indicator 5.a.2)</li> <li>- Women’s equitable access to inheritance of property (SDG targets 1.4 and 5.a)</li> </ul> <p>and include Nagoya Protocol</p>	<p>Avaaz believes that such inclusion will bring a holistic evaluation of the proposed objectives. Therefore, Avaaz supports the Women Caucus recommendation to include, in addition to the SDG linkage stated, linkages developed to other relevant SDGs.</p>

ORIGINAL TEXT <a href="#">CBD/SBI/3/INF/4I</a>	SUGGESTED EDITS	RATIONALE
<p><b>Section 1.3 under Link to GBF (Column C, page 5)</b></p> <p>New Indicators</p>	<p><b>Section 1.3 under Link to GBF (Column C, page 5)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure (SDG indicator 1.4.2)</li> <li>- (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure (SDG indicator 5.a.1)</li> <li>- Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control (SDG indicator 5.a.2)</li> <li>- Women's equitable access to inheritance of property (SDG targets 1.4 and 5.a)</li> </ul> <p>and include Nagoya Protocol</p>	<p>Avaaz supports CBD Women suggestion: in addition to the SDG linkage stated, linkages ought to be developed to other relevant SDGs to present a holistic evaluation of the proposed objective. Women's equitable access to inheritance of property is particularly critical at this juncture.</p>
<p><b>Section 1.4 under Link to GBF indicators (Column C, page 5)</b></p> <p>9.1.2 Percentage of the population in traditional employment (ILO)</p> <p>NEW Indicator</p>	<p><b>Section 1.4 under Link to GBF indicators (Column C, page 5)</b></p> <p><b>Article 1(b):</b> the term <b>equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value</b> refers to rates of remuneration established without discrimination based on sex.</p>	<p>Avaaz suggest the inclusion of <a href="#">ILO Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)</a>. Avaaz is in line with the reference under <a href="#">ILO convention C100</a> believes that there is still a lack of gender responsive structure to ensure women's economic opportunities, including equal pay and living wage, sharing of unpaid care burden and control over natural resources.</p>

## COMPILATION ON BASIC LAW: WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

- The [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) states that all human beings are **born free and equal in dignity** (article 1) and all persons are entitled to **fundamental rights and freedoms without dissimilarity based on sex** (Article 2).
- The [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#) (CEDAW) sets out **precise areas to be addressed in the prevention of discrimination against women**, outlining that the **whole society**, not only just the government of a country has responsibilities to reduce gender-based discrimination.
- The [Declaration on the Right to Development](#) recognizes the importance of gender equity in participation in development interventions.
- Following the [UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing](#) in 1995, gender mainstreaming was adopted by the UN as the **key methodology for achieving gender equality**.
- In 2002, the international community approved the [Millennium Development Goals](#) and gender was recognized as central to the achievement of all the MDGs. This was reaffirmed by the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

## LIST OF RESOURCES: INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

- **Women 4 Biodiversity** (2021) Advancing Women's Rights, Gender Equality and the Future of Biodiversity in the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Available at [www.women4biodiversity.org/publications/](http://www.women4biodiversity.org/publications/)

- **CBD** (2021) Draft Outline of a Post-2020 Gender Plan of Action. Available at [www.cbd.int/doc/c/1037/0c47/974ee71c8778accecb3813a95/sbi-03-04-add2-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/c/1037/0c47/974ee71c8778accecb3813a95/sbi-03-04-add2-en.pdf)
- **CBD** (2010) Guidelines for Mainstreaming Gender into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. Technical Series No. 49. Available at [www.cbd.int/programmes/cross-cutting/gender/cbd\\_ts49\\_gender\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/programmes/cross-cutting/gender/cbd_ts49_gender_guidelines.pdf)
- **CBD** (2018) Decision Adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Available at [www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-34-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-34-en.pdf)
- **CBD** (2010) Mainstreaming Gender Considerations in the Development and Implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. Module 9 (B series). Available at [www.cbd.int/doc/training/nbsap/b9-train-gender-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/training/nbsap/b9-train-gender-en.pdf)
- **CBD** (2021) Kunming Declaration “Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for all Life on Earth”. Available at [www.cbd.int/doc/c/c2db/972a/fb32e0a277bf1ccfff742be5/cop-15-05-add1-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/c/c2db/972a/fb32e0a277bf1ccfff742be5/cop-15-05-add1-en.pdf)
- **UNEMG** (2021) Integrating a gender perspective in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Available at [https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Post-2020\\_UNEP-WCMC\\_UN\\_Women\\_integrating-a-gender-perspective-issues\\_brief.pdf](https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Post-2020_UNEP-WCMC_UN_Women_integrating-a-gender-perspective-issues_brief.pdf)
- **UNHCR** (2021) Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. Available at [www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cedaw/pages/cedawindex.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cedaw/pages/cedawindex.aspx)



# ABOUT US

Avaaz – meaning "voice" in several European, Middle Eastern and Asian languages– launched in 2007 with a simple democratic mission: organize citizens of all nations to close the gap between the world we have and the world most people everywhere want. Currently, Avaaz has a membership of almost 70 million people from all countries and territories.

Avaaz empowers millions of people from all walks of life to take action on pressing global, regional and national issues, from corruption and poverty to conflict and the environment. Our model of internet organising allows thousands of individual efforts, however small, to be rapidly combined into a collective force.

Each year, Avaaz sets overall priorities through all-member polls. For the 2021-2022 period, our membership have chosen the following top five priorities: climate change (54.94%), defending human rights (33.43%), protecting biodiversity and ending the extinction crisis (31.14%), fighting polarisation, extremism and defending democracy (27.82%), and tackling poverty (25.56%).

In other words, the Avaaz staff doesn't set an agenda in advance to try and convince members to go along with. It's quite the opposite: Avaaz staff create actions that are in line with priorities chosen by members. Because Avaaz is wholly member-funded, democratic accountability is in our DNA: we don't accept funds from governments, corporations, political parties, or foundations, and have policies in place to limit disproportionate influence of high net worth individuals: we thus only receive small individual donations, and the highest amount we can accept is US\$ 5,000.

Our community runs campaigns in 17 languages, served by a core team on 6 continents and thousands of volunteers. We take action –delivering petitions, researching, emailing, lobbying governments, organizing "offline" protests and events, and funding grassroots campaigns, litigation, or direct actions on the ground– to ensure that the views and values of the world's people inform the decisions that affect us all.

Avaaz is mobilized on all three Rio conventions through engaging with civil society at the national and global level, and with officials from Parties and international organizations to connect each sector of society in the common goal towards a sustainable future.

At the Convention of Biological Diversity, among many other contributions, Avaaz has provided suggestions and comments for the following documents:

- [Zero Draft of the global biodiversity framework](#)
- [SBSTTA-24 documents on the updated plan of action 2020-2030 for the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity](#)
- [SBSTTA-24 Draft monitoring framework](#)
- [SBSTTA-24 Review on linkages between the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
- [SBI-3 contribution on transparency and participation](#)
- [SBI-3 contribution with a proposal to revamp resource mobilization and financial mechanism response to implement a strong and inclusive global biodiversity framework](#)

- [OEWG-3 comments and suggestions on the First Draft of the global biodiversity framework](#)
- [COP 15 \(Part 1\) and comments on the First Draft of the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework \(Avaaz's Listening Document\)](#)

Avaaz has also been active in the civil society space of the CBD, and has shared positions with other progressive movements. Some examples:

- [Joint statement on the 23rd Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, in which Avaaz is a co-signatory.](#)
- [Joint statement on ABCMs workshop, in which Avaaz is a co-signatory.](#)
- [Joint statement over the High-Level Summit on Biodiversity, in which Avaaz is co-signatory.](#)
- [Joint position statement over the Global Biodiversity Framework, in which Avaaz is a co-signatory.](#)
- [Joint statement on the outcomes of the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020, in reference to the CBD COP15, in which Avaaz is co-signatory.](#)
- [Open letter from civil society to world leaders ahead of the COP-15 \(part 1\): Put human rights at the centre of environmental policy, in which Avaaz is co-signatory](#)

**TO SEE ALL THE DOCUMENTS PRODUCED  
BY AVAAZ FOR THE GENEVA MEETINGS,  
PLEASE GO TO THE FOLLOWING LINKS:**

[WWW.AVAAZ.ORG/GVALASTCALL](http://WWW.AVAAZ.ORG/GVALASTCALL)

[WWW.AVAAZ.ORG/GVALASTCALL\\_GENDER](http://WWW.AVAAZ.ORG/GVALASTCALL_GENDER)

[WWW.AVAAZ.ORG/GVALASTCALL\\_MONEY](http://WWW.AVAAZ.ORG/GVALASTCALL_MONEY)

[WWW.AVAAZ.ORG/GVALASTCALL\\_IPLC\\_RIGHTS](http://WWW.AVAAZ.ORG/GVALASTCALL_IPLC_RIGHTS)

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