

Sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body Implementation

16–19 February 2026
Rome, Italy

AGENDA ITEM 5: GENDER ACTION PLAN

DATE: 15 FEBRUARY 2026

Statement by the **International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB)**

The IIFB thanks the Secretariat for the mid-term review of the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030) presented in document CBD/SBI/6/5, and takes note of the progress made, as well as the gaps that persist in that review.

The IIFB emphasizes that the Gender Action Plan is a fundamental instrument for the effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), particularly for achieving Target 23. We reiterate that its implementation must be based on a human rights-based approach, recognizing the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and the central role of women of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Indigenous women are the protectors and transmitters of ancestral and traditional knowledge for the care and sustainability of biodiversity in our territories.

We note that, while many Parties have incorporated general references to gender in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), the review shows that fewer than half have involved women's groups in their development, and only a minority of national targets comprehensively address the three elements of Target 23. This situation is particularly concerning for indigenous women, who continue to face structural barriers in accessing land, resources, and full and effective participation in decision-making spaces.

The review also shows that access to gender-responsive financing remains insufficient, especially for initiatives led by indigenous women and local communities. In this regard, we urge Parties to ensure that national and international financial mechanisms, including those of the Global Environment Facility, are accessible, culturally appropriate, and responsive to the priorities defined by indigenous women themselves.

The IIFB also emphasizes the need for the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action to be carried out in accordance with Article 8(j) and Article 10(c) of the Convention and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, ensuring free, prior, and informed consent in all actions affecting indigenous peoples and their traditional knowledge.

The IIFB, therefore, welcomes the recommendations in document CBD/SBI/6/5. The recommendations highlighted in green are the ones we recommend be maintained, and the new suggested text in **GREEN CAPITALS** as follows:

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VI. Recommendations

1. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation may wish to adopt a recommendation¹ along the following lines:

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation

Recommends that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt elements of a decision² along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Takes note* of the findings of the midterm review of the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action 2023–2030³ submitted at the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;⁴

2. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments, subnational governments, cities, **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS** and other local authorities and relevant organizations to continue and strengthen their efforts to implement the Gender Plan of Action, in particular by:

(a) Integrating gender-responsive approaches across all biodiversity-related policies, strategies and actions, in line with TargetS **22 AND 23** of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;⁵

(b) Ensuring the full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation of women and girls and the leadership of women, including those from indigenous peoples and local communities, in biodiversity-related decision-making at all levels;

(c) Enhancing **AND STRENGTHENING THE** efforts to generate, use and report gender-disaggregated data, **INCLUDING SEX-DISAGGREGATED DATA** to support monitoring and the evaluation of progress with the implementation of the Plan of Action;

(d) Promoting the allocation of adequate **AND SPECIFIC FINANCIAL** resources and strengthening institutional capacity for a gender-responsive implementation of the Plan of Action, including through targeted support for women-led initiatives, especially among indigenous peoples and local communities;

¹ The estimated extrabudgetary resource requirements for the activities outlined in the draft recommendation are shown in the annex to the present document.

² Additional elements pertaining to the decision on capacity-building and development and technical and scientific cooperation will be submitted for consideration at the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body.

³ Decision [15/11](#), annex.

⁴ See CBD/SBI/6/5.

⁵ Decision [15/4](#), annex.



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(E) ENCOURAGE PARTIES TO SPECIFICALLY REPORT ON PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES RELATED TO WOMEN, INCLUDING THOSE FROM INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES, IN THEIR NATIONAL REPORTS.

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to continue to support Parties in the implementation of the Gender Plan of Action, including through technical guidance, capacity-building and knowledge exchange, in collaboration with indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and relevant stakeholders, in collaboration with the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres.