

# Information Session on Gender in the Rio Conventions

25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 – 14:00 CEST

**STARTING  
SOON**



United Nations  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification



United Nations Environment Programme  
Convention on Biological Diversity



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



# Information Session on Gender in the Rio Conventions

25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 – 14:00 CEST



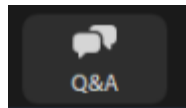
# Remember!



**Language of the meeting: English**



**This session is livestreamed, will be recorded and made available through the [Gender Newsletter](#) and on our [website](#)**



**Please use the Q&A function to ask questions and provide information during the session**



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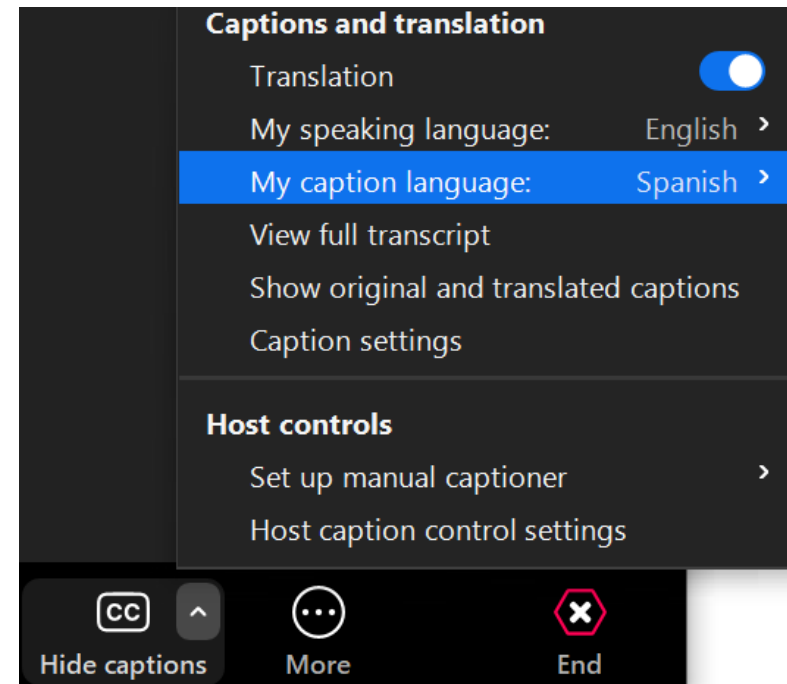
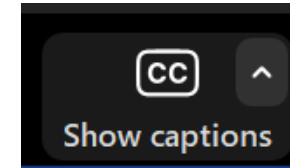


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# Agenda – Information Session on Gender in the Rio Conventions



Times are approximate

- ❖ Welcome and introduction to the agenda *10 minutes*
- ❖ Update on UNFCCC COP outcomes and next steps
  - ❖ Wiebke Bender, Gender Programme Officer, UNFCCC *10 minutes*
  - ❖ Mwanahamisi Singano, Representative of the UNFCCC Women and Gender Constituency *10 minutes*
- ❖ Update on UNCBD COP outcomes and next steps
  - ❖ Olivier Rukundo, Head of Unit, UNCBD *10 minutes*
  - ❖ Amelia Arreguin, Representative the CBD Women's Caucus *10 minutes*
- ❖ Update on UNCCD COP outcomes and next steps
  - ❖ Karen Elizabeth Bernard, Gender Policy Officer, UNCCD *10 minutes*
  - ❖ Rosalind Helfand, Representative of the UNCCD Gender Caucus *10 minutes*
- ❖ Q&A and closing by Fleur Newman, UNFCCC Action Empowerment Lead *20 minutes*



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# Updates on COP 29 outcomes and next steps



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# Gender events at COP 29

- **Gender Day:**
  - High-level event on Gender and Transparency
  - Illuminating Equity: Technical In-Session Dialogue on Gender in Transparency
- Bridging the GAP from Access to Action – National Gender and Climate Change Focal Point **training on climate finance and gender II** (*with Climate funds*)
- The Power of **Gender Data for Prioritization and Transparency**: workshop with a focus on **NDCs** and **BTRs** (*with GEDA*)

Recordings available at  
<https://unfccc.int/gender/cop29>



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# Gender in COP 29 Decisions

## 10-year extension of the enhanced LWPG

- Importance of gender mainstreaming through all relevant targets and goals in activities under UNFCCC
- **CBs** to integrate gender into their respective areas of work (capacity-building)
- Retaining previously agreed language from 3/CP.25 including mandates to the secretariat
- Addition of gender considerations in budgets and appointment of GFPS

ACE, NWP, JTWP, MWP, Marrakesh Partnership, sectoral work,...

- Senior gender focal point
- Annual gender composition report
- A biennial synthesis report on progress in integrating a gender perspective into constituted body processes
- Capacity-building support to constituted bodies
- Facilitate coordination with others
- Facilitate support for building and strengthening the skills and capacities of national gender and climate change focal points
- Support attendance NGCCFPs at relevant UNFCCC meetings
- Enhance communication and information-sharing
- Participate in the UN SWAP
- **!NEW!** consider making sure all budget proposals have considered effects on gender equality in its own organizational structure, and to appoint gender focal points in relevant departments



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# Gender in COP 29 Decisions

- Continuing need to mainstream gender under the convention
- Important role of the work programme
- Differentiated impact and multidimensional factors
- PA preambular text, respective obligations on human rights
- Imperative of a just transition
- Recognizing action taken
- Noting reports in relation to the review of the work programme, gender composition, gender integration in climate policies, plans and action



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## Decision -/CP.29

### Gender and climate change

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decisions 36/CP.7, 1/CP.16, 23/CP.18, 18/CP.20, 1/CP.21, 21/CP.22, 3/CP.23, 3/CP.25, 20/CP.26, 24/CP.27 and 15/CP.28,

*Acknowledging* the continuing need for gender mainstreaming through all relevant targets and goals in activities under the Convention as an important contribution to increasing their effectiveness, fairness and sustainability,

*Also acknowledging* the important role of the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in the UNFCCC process, demonstrated by their review by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation,

*Recognizing with concern* that climate change impacts on women and men can often differ owing to historical and current gender inequalities and multidimensional factors and can be more pronounced in developing countries and for local communities and Indigenous Peoples,

*Acknowledging* that climate change is a common concern of humankind, Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity,

*Taking into account* the imperatives of a just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities,

1. *Takes note* of the synthesis report on progress, challenges, gaps and priorities in implementing the gender action plan, and future work to be undertaken on gender and climate change<sup>1</sup> and the summary report on the in-session workshop, held at the sixtieth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, to discuss the synthesis report<sup>2</sup> and *recognizes* the action taken by Parties, UNFCCC constituted bodies, the secretariat and observers to implement the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan;

2. *Takes note* of the reports on gender composition,<sup>3</sup> according to which gender balance in Party delegations was achieved at the fifty-eighth and sixtieth sessions of the subsidiary bodies, women's representation in Party delegations to sessions of the governing bodies has remained the same or declined year-on-year since the twenty-fifth sessions, and progress in achieving the goal of gender balance in constituted bodies remains inconsistent;

3. *Notes* the synthesis report by the secretariat on implementation of gender-responsive climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as reported by Parties in reports and communications under the UNFCCC,<sup>4</sup> and the progress reflected therein;

# Gender in COP 29 Decisions

- Enhance efforts (on recalled decisions)
- Capacity-building, knowledge management, equal participation and leadership of women, coherence with relevant processes and gender-responsive means of implementation
- Data and best available science
- Information on gender in national reporting

4. *Encourages* Parties to enhance their efforts to advance the implementation of the decisions referred to in the preamble;
5. *Acknowledges* that capacity-building, knowledge management and the sharing of experience are essential to supporting relevant actors in designing and implementing gender-responsive climate action and for increasing the effectiveness and scaling up of these measures;
6. *Recognizes* that the full, meaningful and equal participation and leadership of women in all aspects of the UNFCCC process and in national- and local-level climate policymaking and action is vital for achieving long-term climate goals<sup>5</sup> and *notes* the importance of taking further steps in this regard;
7. *Acknowledges* that coherence with relevant United Nations processes, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as applicable, and within national implementation will contribute to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of efforts to integrate gender considerations into climate action;
8. *Encourages* United Nations entities to cooperate with Parties on mainstreaming gender- and age-disaggregated data in their existing policies, enabling mechanisms and programmes, across all levels of governance, and to support Parties in directly applying the best available science in the collection and analysis of data sets, including on the impacts of extreme weather and slow onset events;
9. *Invites* Parties to include information on efforts and steps taken to implement the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and any subsequent gender action plan in their national reporting under the UNFCCC process, as applicable;
10. *Notes* that gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation of climate policy and action can enable Parties to raise ambition, as well as enhance gender equality, and just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs in accordance with nationally defined development priorities;
11. *Decides* to extend the enhanced Lima work programme on gender for a period of 10 years;
12. *Also decides* that a review of the implementation of the enhanced Lima work programme on gender to identify progress, challenges and further work to be undertaken shall be initiated at the seventieth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (June 2029) with a view to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation concluding the review at its seventy-first session (November 2029) and recommending a draft decision thereon for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its thirty-fourth session (November 2029);
13. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to initiate the development of a new gender action plan at its sixty-second session (June 2025) taking into account the inputs to and outcome of the review of the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan in 2024 and the workshops referred to in paragraphs 14 and 16 below with a view to recommending a draft decision for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its thirtieth session (November 2025);
14. *Also requests* the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation to organize, with the support of the secretariat, a technical workshop, to be held at the sixty-second session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, to facilitate the design of gender action plan activities, taking into account, inter alia, the progress, challenges, gaps and priorities identified by Parties and observers during the review referred to in paragraph 13 above and the information presented in the synthesis report referred to in paragraph 1 above, with a view to informing the development of the new gender action plan referred to in paragraph 13 above;



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# Gender in COP 29 Decisions

- National Gender and Climate Change Focal Points
- Constituted bodies to report on gender integration into their work
- Increased gender-responsiveness of public and private finance for strengthened capacity of women, implementation of the work programme, simplified access
- Support for developing country Parties
- Engagement of men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change and strategic partners and allies
- Development of a new Gender Action Plan



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15. *Invites* Parties and observers to submit via the submission portal<sup>6</sup> by 31 March 2025 views on the format and scope of the in-session technical workshop referred to in paragraph 14 above;

16. *Decides* that other in-person or hybrid technical workshops on the topic referred to in paragraph 14 above may be held during 2025 in conjunction with existing events, such as the regional climate weeks, at the discretion of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation upon receiving an expression of interest from a Party to host such a workshop, while aiming to ensure inclusive and balanced geographical representation at the workshops;

17. *Encourages* Parties to appoint and provide support for a national gender and climate change focal point for climate negotiations, implementation and monitoring;

18. *Requests* all constituted bodies to continue to include in their regular reports information on progress towards integrating a gender perspective into their processes;

19. *Invites* relevant public and private entities to increase the gender-responsiveness of climate finance with a view to strengthening the capacity of women;

20. *Encourages* Parties and relevant public and private entities to strengthen the gender-responsiveness of climate finance with a view to further building the capacity of women and for implementation work under the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and any subsequent gender action plan, and in order to facilitate simplified access to climate finance for grass-roots women's organizations as well as for Indigenous Peoples, especially women, and local communities;

21. *Emphasizes* the urgency of scaled-up support for developing country Parties to implement the Lima work programme on gender and any subsequent gender action plan, consistent with relevant provisions of the Convention;

22. *Requests* the secretariat to continue to:

(a) Maintain the position of senior gender focal point to retain relevant expertise and support and monitor the implementation of the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and any subsequent gender action plan;

(b) Prepare an annual gender composition report and a biennial synthesis report on progress in integrating a gender perspective into constituted body processes;

(c) Provide capacity-building support to constituted bodies and secretariat staff in integrating a gender perspective into their respective areas of work in collaboration with relevant organizations, as appropriate;

(d) Facilitate coordination with other United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations when supporting the implementation of the enhanced Lima work programme on gender and any subsequent gender action plan;

(e) Facilitate support for building and strengthening the skills and capacities of national gender and climate change focal points;

(f) Support the attendance of national gender and climate change focal points at relevant mandated UNFCCC meetings, upon request and subject to available resources;

(g) Enhance communication and information-sharing through existing UNFCCC web-based resources and communication activities;

(h) Participate in the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to strengthen the integration of gender considerations within the organization and work of the secretariat;

23. *Encourages* the secretariat to consider making sure all budget proposals have considered effects on gender equality in its own organizational structure, and to appoint gender focal points in relevant departments, provided this does not add to the overall cost but increases efficiency;

# Gender in COP 29 Decisions

- Improve gender-responsiveness of **climate finance** in **AF, GEF, GCF (mentions GAP)**
- **NCQG** - inclusion and extension of benefits in climate finance to women and girls
- **SCF** – enhance efforts to ensure gender-responsiveness
- **GGA** – gender indicators
- New **FWG of the LCIPP workplan** to be implemented in a gender-responsive manner
- **L&D Fund** – gender equality in recruitment
- **SB Art.6.4** and **LEG**
- **Gender balance** (SCF, FWG, GGA, MWP, Advisory Board of the Santiago Network )

**17 decisions directly referenced gender**

COP 29 decisions can be accessed at  
<https://unfccc.int/cop29/auvs>



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# Gender at COP 29 - Finance

- [NCQG](#): promote inclusion and the extension of benefits in climate finance to women and girls, among other communities and groups in vulnerable situations.
- Governing bodies of the **Adaptation Fund**, the **Green Climate Fund** and the **Global Environment Facility** invited to consider areas for **improving** the **gender-responsiveness** of the funds' work, considering insights stemming from the [2024 SCF Forum](#)
- [GCF Board](#) to **actively contribute** to the implementation of UNFCCC GAP activities
- **Adaptation Fund Board** to further **increase** the **gender-responsiveness** of the fund's resources
- [GEF](#) encouraged to work to ensure that all its **implementing agencies** fully **comply** with its **policy on gender equality** in implementing projects
- [SCF](#) to continue enhancing efforts to ensure gender-responsiveness in implementing its workplan; Relevance of **improving data on gender-responsive climate finance**





# Gender at COP 29 - GGA

- Gender balance among experts:
  - *Emphasizes the importance of ensuring geographical and gender balance among the technical experts to assist in the technical work under the United Arab Emirates–Belém work programme on indicators for measuring progress achieved towards the targets referred to in paragraphs 9–10 of decision 2/CMA.5, including reviewing and refining the compilation and mapping of existing indicators relevant to measuring that progress;*
- Indicators, including on gender equality, to be adopted by COP 30
  - *Indicators that capture information pertaining to, inter alia, social inclusion, Indigenous Peoples, participatory processes, human rights, **gender equality**, migrants, children and young people, and persons with disabilities;*
- [Workshops](#) 20-22 March and at SB 62



# Gender at COP 29 - JTWP

- The [CMA requested](#) the subsidiary bodies to continue consideration of this matter at SB 62 (June 2025) with a view to recommending a draft decision for consideration and adoption by CMA 7 (November 2025)
- Two dialogues to take place in 2025
  - Submissions on possible topics for the dialogue can be accessed in the [UNFCCC Submissions Portal](#)
- Third annual high-level ministerial roundtable on Just Transition
- Just transition is a priority area for COP 30



# Gender agenda item at SB 62

- **Mandate:** Initiate the development of a new gender action plan at SB 62 (June 2025) – technical in-session workshop
- **Timeline and process:**
  - Submissions from Parties and Observers by **31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**
  - **SB 62:** workshop to facilitate the design of the new GAP and begin the development of the new GAP
  - Potential **additional workshops** in 2025 (subject to EoI to SBI Chair by Parties)
- **Purpose of the SB 62 workshop:**
  - Discuss the design of the activities in the new gender action plan
  - Consider the inputs to and outcome of the review of the enhanced Lima work programme on gender in 2024 and the workshops below
- Expected outcome at COP 30

The screenshot shows the UNFCCC Submissions Portal interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'SUBMISSION PORTAL'. Below it, a search bar contains the word 'gender'. To the right of the search bar is a 'CLEAR TAGS' button. Below the search bar, there's a section titled 'CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS, ELECTIONS AND STATEMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION AT UPCOMING SESSIONS (1)'. This section contains a table with columns for 'Issue', 'Title', 'Mandate', 'Deadline', and 'Session Name'. The 'Mandate' column is highlighted with a yellow circle. The 'Deadline' column shows '31/03/2025'. The 'Session Name' column shows 'SB 62'. At the bottom right of the table, there is a 'START SUBMISSION' button highlighted with a yellow circle.

**UNFCCC Submissions Portal**  
<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>



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# Update and reflections from the UNFCCC Women and Gender Constituency (WGC)



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# THE WGC COP29 REFLECTIONS

womengenderclimate.o  
rg



# 2024 Reflections



## COP 29 Reflections

- **What works well**

- Thematic coordination made it possible for the WGC to have effective engagement and influence across different thematic areas
- Clarity on messages and key demands streamlined our collective advocacy
- Pre-COP trainings and strategy sessions were essential in supporting new members and advocate navigating UNFCCC space
- Cross constituency work especially as related to thematic advocacy proved to be critical.

- **Challenges**

- Increased corporate capture and anti rights reflected also in the gender negotiations
- It was one of the expensive COP
- Increased decision making by consultations and not negotiations





# 2025 Objectives

- **Finance:** The NCQG decision is inadequate in both quantity and quality and ignores the needs of developing countries, their people and communities as well as the best science for what it will cost us to stay within 1.5 degree warming
- **Loss and damage:** Negotiations ended on a Rule 16. Serious disagreements persist on ensuring the loss and damage architecture is coherent and complimentary. No new money on the table for addressing loss and damage
- **Technology:** The technology negotiations were characterized by deep polarization among the countries, with gender being one of the critical issues. The mere mention of the word gender led to the failure to approve the annual report of the technology mechanism
- **Adaptation:** We are also deeply disappointed that gender equality was nearly excluded from the GGA decision once again, only to be added back in the last iteration.
- **Just transition:** We got the mention of care work but the negotiation ended up in rule 16.
- **Gender:** 10 year work program with clear process for the development of GAP





# 2025 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES



# 2025 Objectives

- Continue on our work to **strengthen and grow a powerful, connected and critical network of feminist, women's rights and climate justice advocates and gender experts** working to drive global commitments to gender-just climate policy and support implementation at regional and national level;
- **Support grassroots, Indigenous and Afrodescendent women in all their diversity to engage in climate change actions and policy-making** at global, regional and national level via training and knowledge sharing, political strategizing and travel support;
- **Showcase and uplift gender-just climate solutions, transitions and financing.**



# WGC prioritized submissions

## Upcoming Submissions:

- **Just Transition**
  - February 15th
  - *Work to be undertaken under the Just Transition Work Programme in 2025, as well as possible topics for the dialogue*
- **Action for Climate Empowerment**
  - 28 February
  - *Submissions to inform this year's ACE Dialogue*
- **Gender**
  - March 31st
  - *On the format, scope and content of the GAP workshop*





# SAVE THE DATE

## 14th March 2025

## WGC strategy meeting

NY at the margins of CSW69





# Update on UNCBD COP outcome and next steps



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**Information Session on  
Gender in the Rio  
Conventions**

**25<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

# COP 16 OUTCOMES OF RELEVANCE TO GENDER

- ❑ COP 16 completed consideration of **agenda items 4 to 6, 8, 9, 12 and 14 to 27 at the first part of its meeting.**
- ❑ Budget-related matters under item 7 were considered at the first resumed session, under silence procedure, but matters related to the appointment of executive secretaries, under the same item, remain for consideration.
- ❑ In addition, and as a consequence of the suspension of the sixteenth meeting and the holding a resumed in-person session, **items 1, 2 and 3 remain relevant. Accordingly, items 1 to 3, 7, 10, 11, 13 and 28 to 31 will be considered at the resumed session**



# COP 16 OUTCOMES OF RELEVANCE TO GENDER

- ❑ Gender was not a standing agenda item for this meeting
- ❑ Many side events/ parallel events and the Women's Forum which was attended by high level officials ( including the Vice president of Colombia, Ministers and other officials of Women organizations including the coordinator of the CBD women's Caucus
- ❑ Many decisions contain references to gender and the Gender Plan of Action

# COP 16 OUTCOMES OF RELEVANCE TO GENDER

- ❑ **Decision on Sustainable Wildlife Management**
- ❑ **Decision on Invasive Alien Species**
- ❑ **Decision on the Programme of work on Article 8(j)**- strong reference to the role women and girls among indigenous peoples and local communities and also reference to the Gender Plan of Action
- ❑ **Decision on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources:** strong reference to women as beneficiaries of benefits and also the allocation of funding created under the Fund for DSI
- ❑ **Decision on Capacity building and development, scientific and technical cooperation:** reference on the need to support women and girls in activities but also to involve them fully in the design of key activities

# RESUMED SESSION OF COP16



- ❑ After being suspended in Cali, Colombia, COP16 will resume from 25-27 February 2025 in Rome, Italy, at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).
- ❑ Parties will seek consensus on Cali's important unfinished business, including resource mobilization, financial mechanism, and KMGBF monitoring and planning.



# MID TERM REVIEW OF THE GENDER PLAN OF ACTION

- ❑ Mid Term Review of progress made in the implementation of the GPA needs to happen before the meeting of the SBI that will take place immediately before COP 17
- ❑ **Process envisaged:**
  - ✓ Gathering views/submissions from Parties and others about status of the implementation of the GPA
  - ✓ Synthesis of information received
  - ✓ Possible expert group to discuss key findings and formulate guidance and recommendations
  - ✓ Consultations/ expert meetings/ workshops

# Thank You!

Secretariat of the Convention  
on Biological Diversity

[secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int)  
[www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)



Convention on  
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# Updates and reflections by the CBD Women's Caucus



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# What did

# bring for women and girls?

*An Assessment from a Human Rights Approach*



CBD Women

## What did CBD COP16 bring for women & girls?

### ITEM8: PROGRESS ON THE PREPARATION OF TARGETS AND UPDATING OF NBSAPS

- Inclusive participation, checked.
- Concrete proposals for gender and rights-based implementation were largely missing.
- GPA remain limited to symbolic references.

### ITEM9: DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION ON GENETIC RESOURCES

- Cali Fund marked progress,
- 50% of monetary benefits allocated to Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- Women and youth in other sectors were overlooked, thus perpetuating invisibility.

### ITEM10: MECHANISMS FOR PLANNING, MONITORING, REPORTING AND REVIEW

- No headline but binary indicator for Target 23
- Component indicator of GPA implementation
- Limited disaggregation by sex/gender weaken the ability to track progress effectively.

## What did CBD COP16 bring for women & girls?

### ITEM11:RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND FINANCIAL MECHANISM

- Direct funding for women, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities remains a critical unmet demand.
- Gender-responsive financing continues to face resistance.
- Human rights based approached stroke through out.

### ITEM12:CAPACITY- BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT, TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

- Women are encouraged to participate in capacity-building and knowledge-sharing
- Lack of clear pathways and resources risks sidelining their engagement, particularly in under-resourced regions.

### ITEM14: IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8(J) AND RELATED PROVISIONS

- Adoption of a New Programme of Work and the establishment of a permanent Subsidiary Body. Recognition of people of African descent.
- Gender-responsive language is included,
- Operational mechanisms for women and girls' leadership and enhanced contributions need strengthening.



## What did CBD COP16 bring for women & girls?

### ITEM16.Scientific AND TECHNICAL NEEDS TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE K-M GBF

- Human rights, gender equality, and equity were reinstated as key scientific and technical 'needs'.
- Critical gaps and invites submissions from Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, and youth organisations.

### ITEM20.MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY, AND ISLAND BIODIVERSITY

- Opportunities for women's participation in the description and modification of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs).
- Synergies with the BBNJ Agreement.

### ITEM25. BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- References to strong gender-responsive and human rights language were diluted.
- Women's land rights were largely ignored in decisions about adaptation and mitigation policies.

What did  
*bring for*  
women & girls?



## OUR WEBSITE

[WWW.CBDWOMENSCAUCUS.COM](http://WWW.CBDWOMENSCAUCUS.COM)

## OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



@cbd\_wc @cbd\_womens

## OUR CONTACT

COORDINATION@CBDWOMENSCAUCUS.ORG



CBD Women



# Update on UNCCD COP outcome and next steps



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# GENDER OUTCOMES FROM UNCCD COP16

Public Information Session – Triple COP 2024

25 February 2025







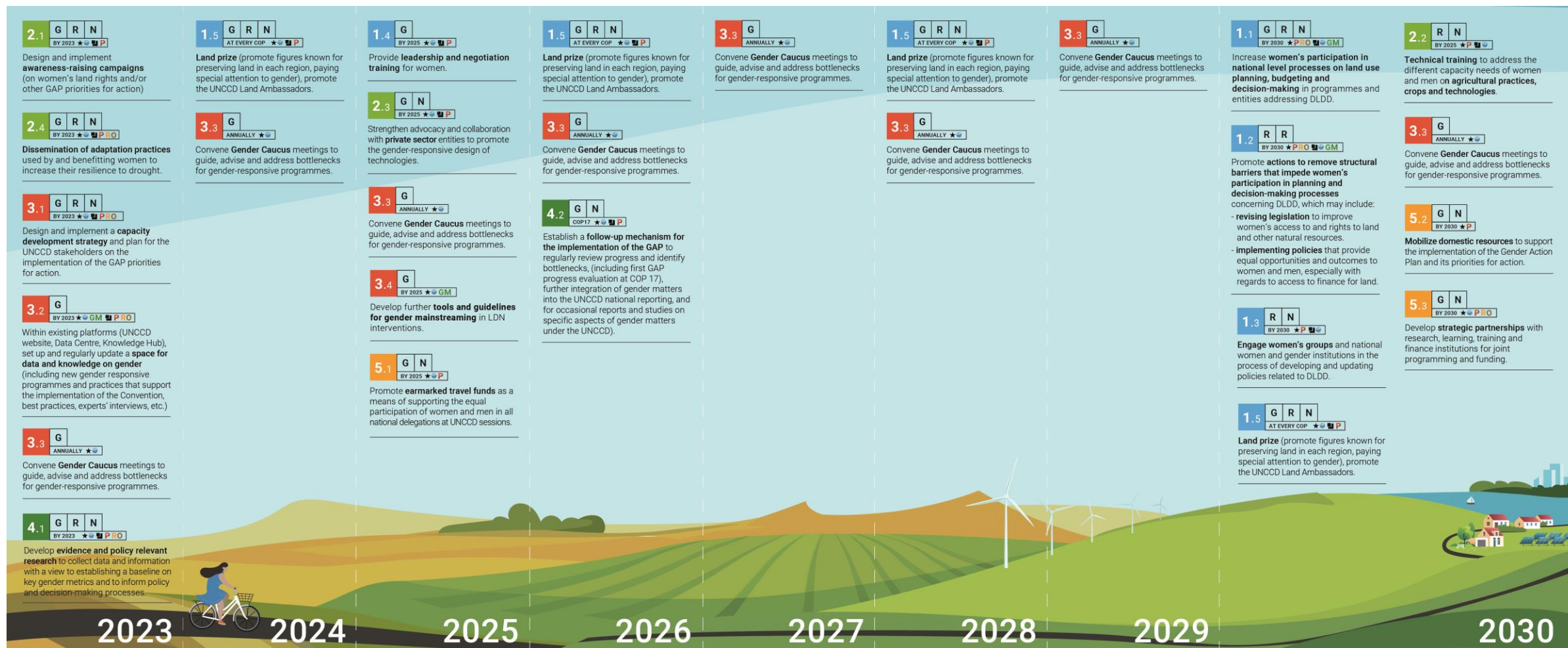
## Gender Action Plan

At **COP13** the Parties adopted a **Gender Action Plan** recognizing the need to accelerate efforts to increase women's meaningful participation in the implementation of the Convention with 4 Priorities for Action:

- **Participation in decisions** taken during the design, planning, implementation and evaluation of initiatives to implement the Convention
- Enhancing women's access to improved **knowledge and technologies**
- Integrating **women's economic empowerment** in UNCCD implementation activities in order to eradicate extreme poverty
- Strengthening **women's land rights** and access to resources

# Gender Roadmap

At COP15 in Abidjan, the Parties adopted a Gender Road Map, to guide and accelerate implementation of the Gender Action Plan through gender-responsive and transformative approaches







# Gender outcomes from COP16

## Contextual factors

gender objectives not so ambitious this time, drought was the main topic – but on gender we obtained almost everything we were aiming for

we encountered the classic divide of country blocs as expected

timing of the negotiation session, effectiveness of the facilitator were factors that facilitated reasonably good outcomes

contentious language – “gender responsive” vs “gender sensitive” vs “gender specific”

strategy to defer to previously approved language



# Gender outcomes from COP16

## Negotiation of language

final decision has retained commitments to: gender parity, sex-disaggregated data, women's land rights (WLR);

"gender responsive" appears 1X (referring to policy and programming) and 1X changed to "gender-specific" (referring to indicators)

"gender equality and women's empowerment" mentioned 3X

gender and WLR also mentioned in land tenure decision,

SDS and rangelands decisions mention women

terminology of "sexual orientation" dropped, and "intersectionality" not mentioned

fear of LGBTQ intention, indigenous women as new topic

reference to Gender Caucus as "on the sidelines" removed

## Gender Caucus sessions at COP16

altogether more than 540 participants (68 per cent women), including country Party delegates and representatives of international agencies, civil society organizations (CSOs), the media and youth organizations, were present at the 3 Gender Caucus events.

the 3 sessions built on previous COP decisions and CRIC recommendations, and in that way contribute to implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) approved by the Parties at COP13, and its Roadmap, approved by Parties at COP15.







## Gender Caucus sessions at COP16

High Level Interactive Dialogue (HLE) on Women's Leadership for sustainable land management (SLM)

chaired by HE Ms. Tarja Halonen, UNCCD Land Ambassador and former President of Finland.

several high-level officials made keynote addresses, including the United Nations Envoy on Water, President of IUCN, President of IFAD, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Princess Mashael bint Saud Al-Shalan of Saudi Arabia.

# Gender Caucus sessions at COP16



the floor was opened to Ministers and Heads of Delegation, to provide a statement based on the guiding questions regarding strategic resources available to empower women in SLM, innovative policies and actions, and policy gaps or bottlenecks

brief statements were read by Heads of Delegations from Guinea, Canada, Spain, European Union, United Arab Emirates, Brazil, Bangladesh, Benin and Guatemala

statements were also provided by UN agencies including UNEP, UNDP, UN Women, IOM, UNICEF and also by Green Climate Fund (GCF)







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## Gender technical session 1 at COP16

The first technical session focused on emerging best practices on the collection of **sex-disaggregated data** and **gender-responsive indicators** for drought, land degradation and desertification (DLDD);

Best practice examples were presented by technical experts from UNDP, UN Women, WOCAT, GEF, International Land Coalition, National Observatory for Women of Saudi Arabia, and the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.





# Gender-responsive indicators



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## Gender technical session 2 at COP16

the 2<sup>nd</sup> technical session focused on women-led solutions for drought resilience .

purpose of the last session was to present the key findings of a new research study commissioned by UNCCD and FAO to detect and highlight the most innovative and effective examples of women champions tackling drought in all corners of the world, and to share the perspectives from the women leaders themselves.

selected women champions traveled from Guatemala, India, Iran, Morocco, Nigeria and Peru, to share their experiences, obstacles faced, lessons learned and strategies.



# Women champions for drought resilience

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# Women champions for drought resilience

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# Gender Caucus sessions at COP16

GC sessions well attended and well received, but not without minor glitches,

time allocated for presentations by the 6 women champions could have been longer, to allow more in depth reflections

GC became a bit more formalized – formal report included as part of COP16 proceedings



## Emerging plans for CRIC23 and COP17



CRIC23 Gender Caucus session may include round table with indigenous women, and more in-depth exploration of selected gender-responsive indicators

report on progress of gender work at CRIC23 will be optional but will be prepared

for COP17, host country agreement with Mongolia signed last week

familiarize with the geo-political context, how gender fits, and sensitivities

build relationships with stakeholders and allies in that region

determine which new gender agreements to pursue



Thanks for your  
attention!

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# Updates and reflections by the UNCCD Gender Caucus



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Enhanced Lima work programme on gender

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# UPDATES & REFLECTIONS | UNCCD GENDER CAUCUS | COP16

JOINT INFORMATION SESSION ON GENDER IN THE RIO CONVENTIONS 25 FEBRUARY 2025



# INTRODUCTION TO THE UNCCD GENDER CAUCUS

## Timeline

COP10 (2011): Advocacy Policy Framework on Gender decision

COP13 (2017): Gender Action Plan (GAP) approved

COP14 (2019): Gender Caucus established

COP15 (2022): GAP roadmap approved to accelerate implementation

COP16 (2024): Gender Caucus steps up contributions

## Membership

Civil society organizations

International organizations

Academia

UN partner organizations

National Focal Points

*With expertise in gender equality work concerning desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD) and sustainable land management.*

## Standing Member Organizations

Co-chairs: Parties to Convention

Secretariat: UNCCD Secretariat

Working Group Leads: Organizations with specific expertise (policy, capacity building, implementation, etc.)

## Gender Caucus Meetings

During each COP.

During each Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC).

At intermediate events.

Convened by the Co-chairs ad hoc as required.



# INTRODUCTION TO THE UNCCD GENDER CAUCUS

## OBJECTIVES

Provide support to strengthen the gender responsiveness of the policy and programme agenda and initiatives of the UNCCD as outlined in the GAP.

- Support GAP implementation acceleration at the international & country levels.
- Assist GAP bottlenecks identification for implementation at international/national/local levels.
- Serve as gender expertise exchange platform among UNCCD stakeholders & Secretariat interested in gender issues.

## ACTIVITIES

### POLICY / ADVOCACY

- Platform to discuss issues affecting GAP implementation.
- Propose/review innovative gender initiatives in scope of UNCCD GAP.
- Gender Caucus as multi stakeholder network for targeted year-round activities.
- Train participants on issues tabled at the COP/analyze with gender lens.
- Define an advocacy strategy for gender reflected in decisions.
- Review relevant documents / provide feedback and inputs.
- Members attend strategic activities related to the Conventions.
- Identify Rio Conventions cross-fertilization opportunities for gender.

### CAPACITY BUILDING

- Capacity development activities.
- Hold events on gender-related matters under UNCCD.
- Share best practices on new developments related to gender in DLDD.



# UNCCD COP16 GENDER CAUCUS OVERVIEW

- Chaired by HE Tarja Halonen, UNCCD Land Ambassador and former President of Finland.
- Over 540 people (68% women) attended Gender Caucus events.
- UNCCD Presidency appointed UN Women and UN Environment to co-lead Peoples Day preparations with the Secretariat; UN Women led Gender Caucus preparations.
- Landesa Coordinated the Gender and Tenure Subcommittee & co-coordinated key civil society convenings.
- Part of People's Day– A day in the official agenda of dialogue between civil society and government.

**KEY SESSIONS** highlighting women's contributions to combating drought, land restoration and sustainable land and food systems.

1. High Level Interactive Dialogue of the Gender Caucus: "HerLand: Women's Leadership for Sustainable Land Management"
1. "Emerging Best Practices on the Collection of Sex-disaggregated Data and Gender-responsive Indicators for DLDD"
1. "Women-led Solutions for Drought Resilience and Adaptation: Key Findings and Conversation with Selected Country-based Women Champions"





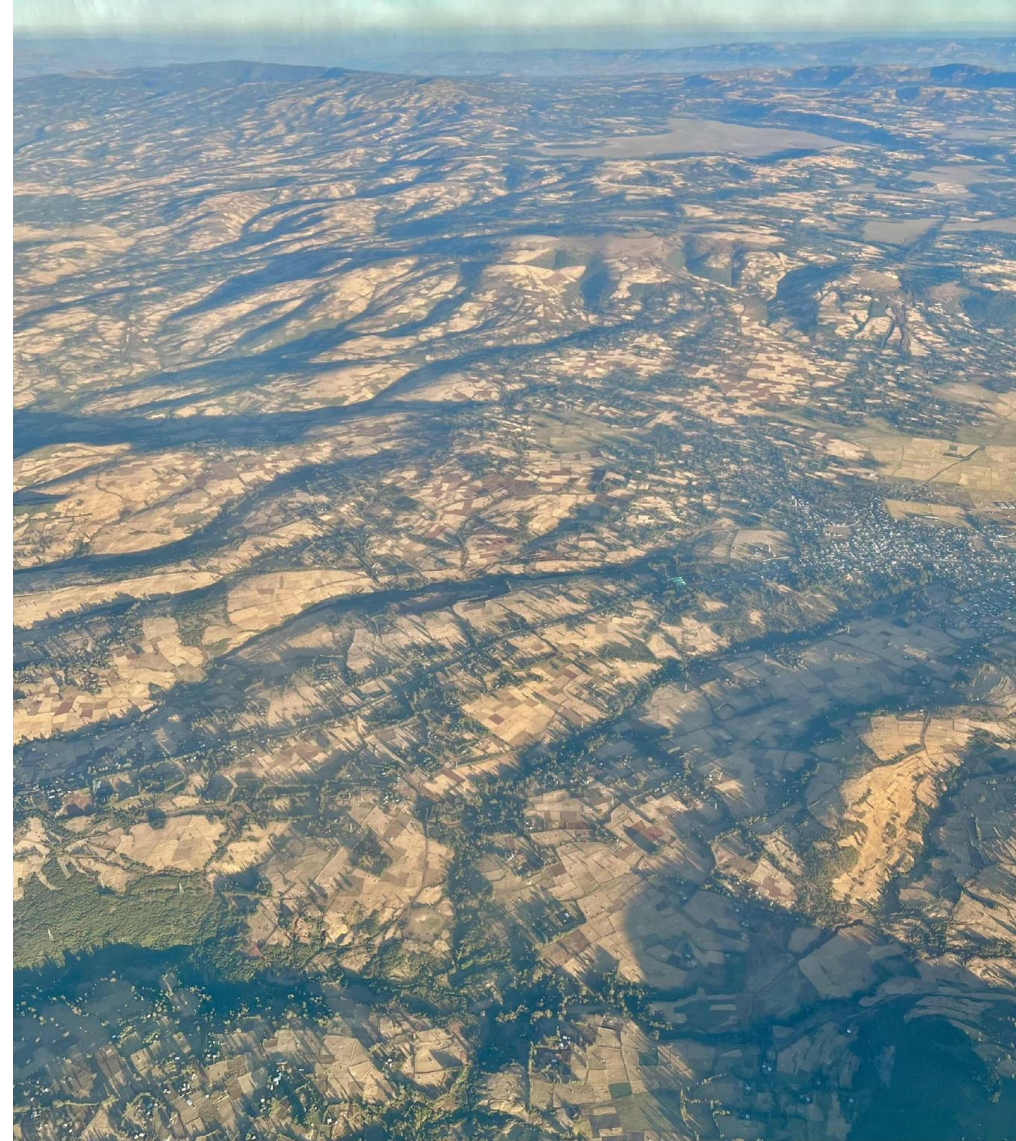
# REFLECTIONS: LAND TENURE

## PROGRESS

- Parties paid strong attention to gender equality across the land tenure decision, reaffirming women's land use rights, including in the Gender Action Plan context and realizing women's economic empowerment.

## CHALLENGES

- Lack of agreement regarding stepping up funding for land tenure security.
- Loss in the text to reference to special support for people in marginalized situations, in which many women and girls are disproportionately impacted by land degradation, desertification and drought.



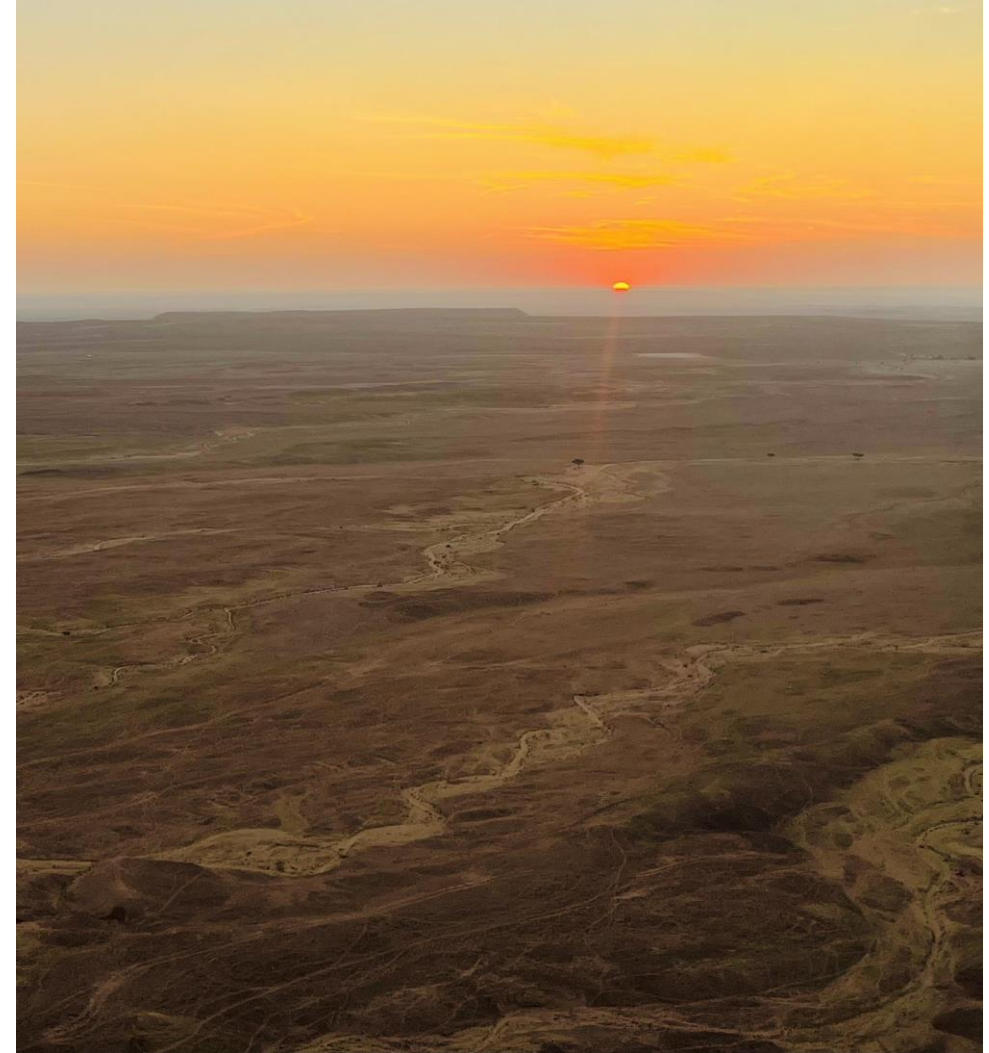
# REFLECTIONS: DROUGHT

## PROGRESS

- Inclusion of civil society and other non-Party stakeholders in the Intergovernmental Working Group on Drought in its deliberations.
- Consideration of the interdependence between science and socio-economic factors.

## CHALLENGES

- Lack of agreement on the role of private sector entities to support mobilization and allocation on funding / concerns on encouraging private lending to developing countries.
- Loss of human rights language in reference to the promotion of inclusive drought governance.





# REFLECTIONS: GENDER

## PROGRESS

**The passage of the gender decision advances efforts for:**

- Promotion of full and effective gender parity across the Convention
- Collection of sex-disaggregated data nationally
- Addressing discrimination faced by women and girls when implementing DLDD related gender responsive policies and programming
- Developing indicators for the next Strategic Framework to close the UNCCD gender data gap
- Collaboration by the Secretariat/GM/contributors/partners to facilitate capacity building and participation for women delegates
- Continuing cross-convention and international organization collaboration, including with UN Women to implement GAP
- Convening the Gender Caucus in the official work program
- Pursuing partnerships for projects promoting gender equality, women's empowerment for land tenure

## CHALLENGES

- Rejection of references to sexual orientation, intersectionality and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination language previously agreed at COP15.
- Insufficient time for the gender negotiations.



# REFLECTIONS: MIGRATION

## PROGRESS

- Broad Party agreement on DLDD and migration interlinkages and on the severe impact of forced migration due to DLDD on marginalized communities, including women, Indigenous Peoples, children and people in vulnerable situations.

## CHALLENGES

- Lack of reference to the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, limiting adoption of entry points for addressing specific issues on migration/displacement from a gender perspective.
- The need to recognize environment-induced displacement.





## OTHER KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- Riyadh Global Drought Resilience Partnership mobilizes resources for acutely affected countries.
- Party agreement to highlight the need for Rio Conventions synergies to implement the Land Tenure Decision.
- All negotiations under Committee of the Whole (CoW) featured recommendations by Parties to include civil society in negotiations.
- Increasing engagement in the UNCCD Gender Caucus.



# LOOKING FORWARD TO UNCCD COP17 / MONGOLIA

## Recommendations

- Boosting civil society attendance and engagement at and leading up to the COP.
- Preparing to discuss increased attendance at negotiations, including in Contact Groups.
- Working with the UNCCD Secretariat's gender-focused staff to boost Party's awareness and understanding of gender equality's importance to COP decisions and successful funding and implementation.
- Advancing action for gender-responsive Rio Convention synergies.
- Importance of collaboration, partnership and dialogue.





# THANK YOU!

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# Q&A



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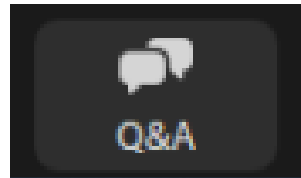
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# Q&A

Please use the Q&A function



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Thank you!

For more information, sign up to our [newsletter](#) and join our [LinkedIn Group](#).

If you have questions, please write to [gender-team@unfccc.int](mailto:gender-team@unfccc.int)



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