

THE CBD WOMEN'S CAUCUS

At the COOP4CBD Training



Introduction to the CBD Women's Caucus

The CBD Women's Caucus (CBD WC) is the recognized women's constituency within the CBD.

Why?

- Global biodiversity policy processes did not adequately recognize their key contributions to conservation and sustainable of biodiversity
- Women's perspectives were underrepresented in decision-making



How?

- A self-organized global platform
- A collective voice for women and girls in biodiversity policy
- A network of over 800+ members and more than 350 organizations from 100+ countries

History of the Women's Caucus

The Caucus emerged from early advocacy during CBD negotiations. Early advocates included **Vandana Shiva, Wangari Maathai and Bella Abzug**

Support from organizations such as:

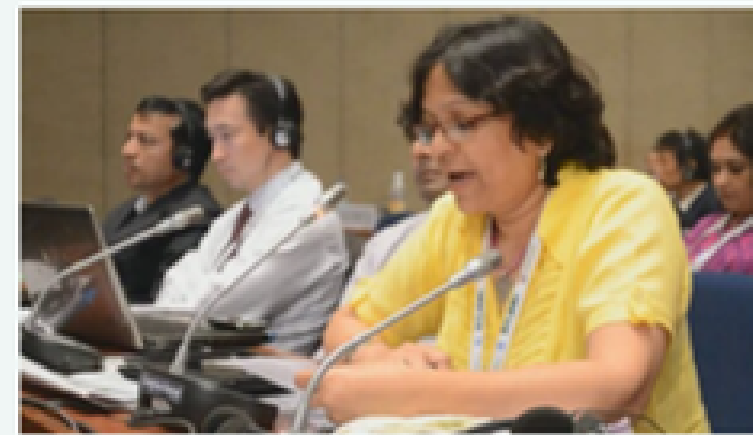


Important achievements:

- First Gender Plan of Action (2008–2015)
- Recognition of women's roles in biodiversity policy
- First official Women's Caucus statement delivered at COP10



Rachel Harris speaks at High Level Event at the COP 10 in Nagoya, Japan on behalf of the Women's Caucus.



Dr Archana Godbole delivering a statement on behalf of the CBD Women's Caucus at COP 11 in Hyderabad, India.



Simone Loversa on behalf of CBD Women's Caucus in event with the Indigenous Women Biodiversity Network at COP 13 in Cancun, Mexico.

Institutional Recognition and Growth

Major developments:

- Adoption of the **Gender Plan of Action (2015–2020)**
- Creation of **Gender Day at CBD COP13**
- Recognition of the Caucus as a distinct constituency with its own speaking seat
This enabled women's organizations to directly influence CBD negotiations.



Launch of the Gender and Biodiversity Champions platform - an initiative of the CBD Women's Caucus - at COP 16 in Cali, Colombia.



Closing of Women Forum organised by CBD Women's Caucus in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat and the Government of Colombia at COP 16 in Cali, Colombia.



Recent Achievements

- Adoption of Gender Equality Target 23 in the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- Adoption of the Gender Plan of Action 2022–2030
- Increased gender integration into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)



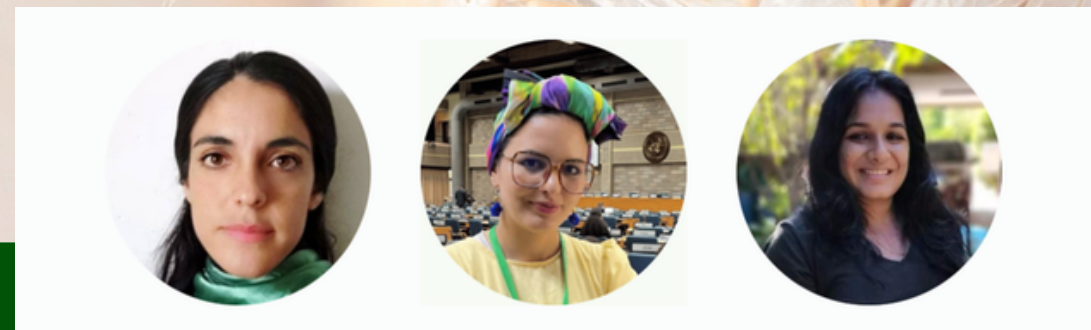
Ensure Gender Equality with Equal Rights, Participation, and Leadership for Women and Girls

These achievements demonstrate the power of collective advocacy by women's organizations.

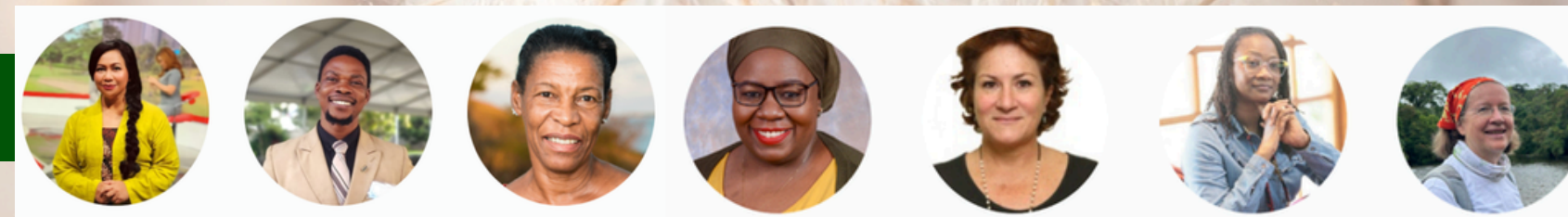
How the Women's Caucus is Organized

The Caucus operates through a collaborative and participatory structure:
Key elements include:

- Coordination team



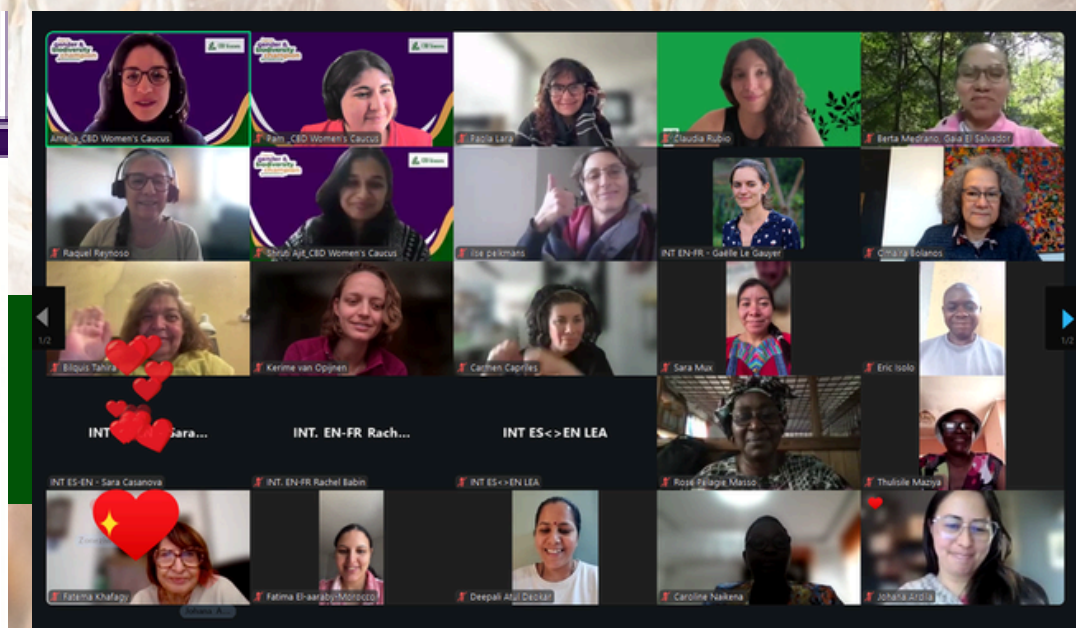
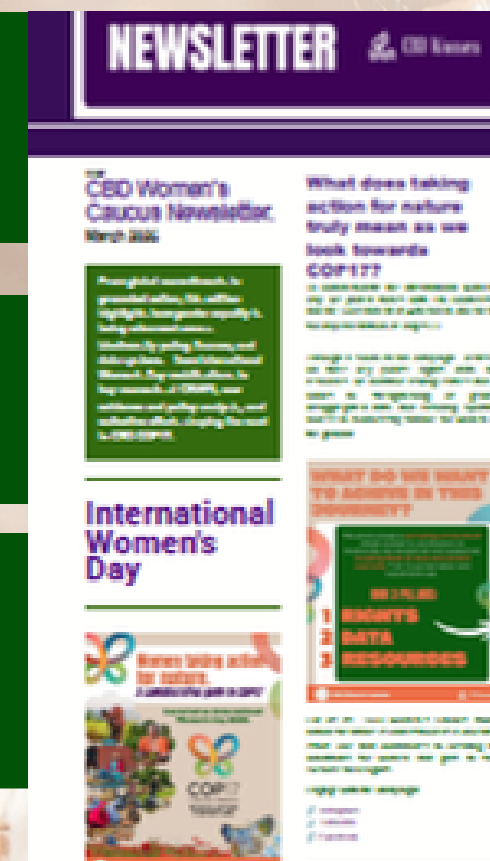
- Board Members



- Working groups and task forces

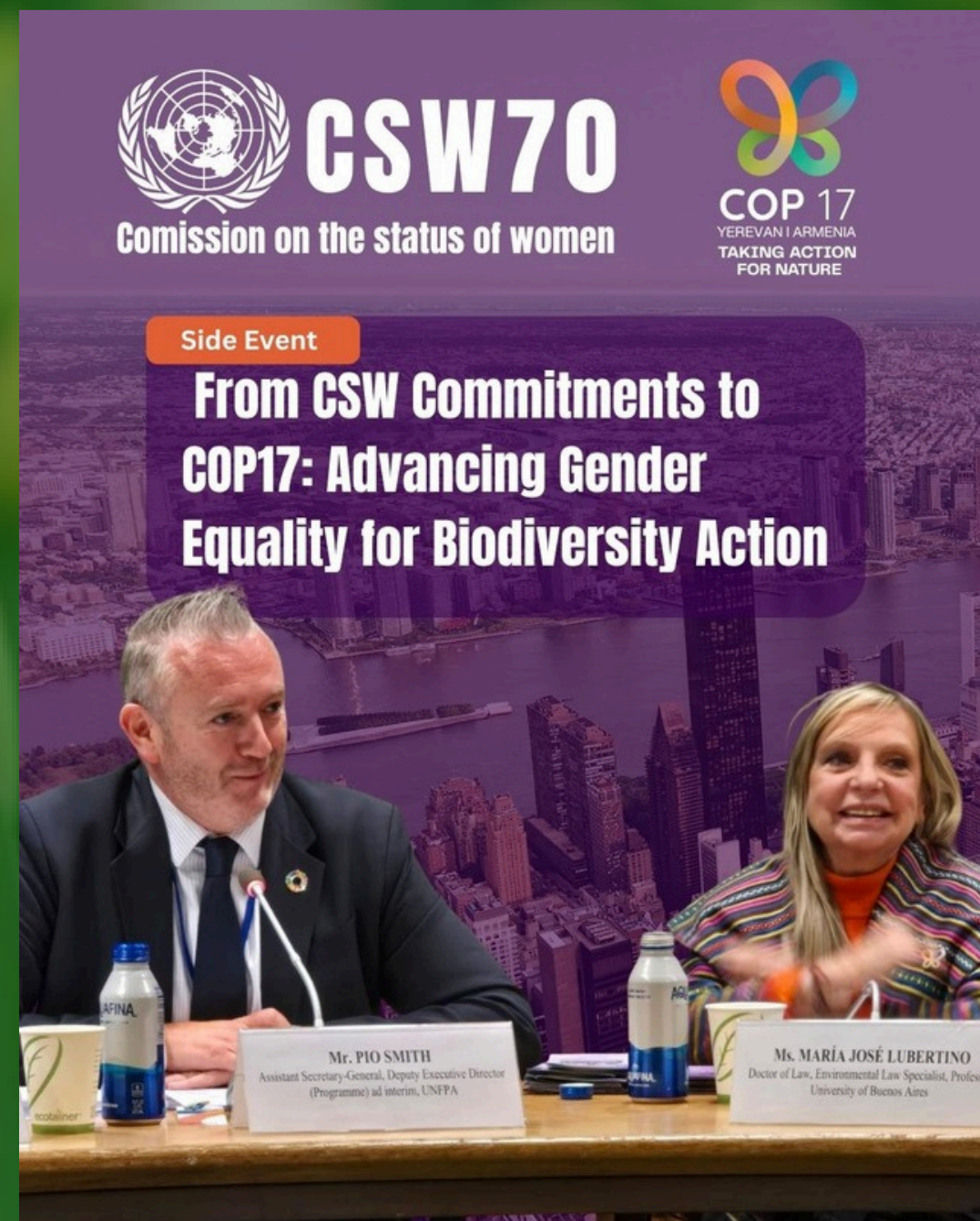
- Global membership network

- Mailing lists and community platforms



Key Ways Members Engage in CBD Processes

Members of the Women's Caucus engage through several mechanisms:



- Policy submissions
- Advocacy and lobbying
- Statements and interventions
- Side events
- Participation in Expert meetings and workshops
- Collaboration with allies

Policy Submissions

One of the most important engagement tools is policy submissions.

2026-03-12	English	Action required by 2026-05-15 2026-027 (SCBD/SSSF/BETI/ML/AF/GD/92620) Notification to: CBD national focal points, resource mobilization national focal points, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations, relevant organizations and initiatives and relevant stakeholders Extension of the deadline to participate in the peer review of a draft study on the relationship between debt sustainability and the implementation of the Convention Subject(s): Financial Resources and Mechanism Action required by 2026-05-20
2026-03-12	English	2026-026 (SCBD/SSSF/BETI/ML/AF/GD/92621) Notification to: CBD national focal points, resource mobilization national focal points, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations, relevant organizations and initiatives and relevant stakeholders Extension of the deadline to participate in the peer review of a draft study on the implementation of the guidance on safeguards in biodiversity finance mechanisms Subject(s): Financial Resources and Mechanism Action required by 2026-05-20
2026-03-12	English	2026-025 (SCBD/SSSF/BETI/ML/AF/GD/92622) Notification to: CBD national focal points, resource mobilization national focal points, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations, relevant organizations and initiatives and relevant stakeholders Extension of the deadline to participate in the peer review of a draft study on the relationship between biodiversity and climate finance Subject(s): Financial Resources and Mechanism Action required by 2026-05-20

- The CBD Secretariat issues notifications requesting input
- Stakeholders provide:
 - Recommendations
 - Policy proposals
 - Comments on draft decision



Women's Caucus members collaborate internally before submitting contributions to ensure collective representation.

Statements and Interventions

- Another key participation mechanism is delivering formal statements during CBD meetings.

Statements are usually delivered:

- At the beginning or end of agenda discussions
- During high-level segments
- On key policy agenda items



Preparation involves:
Member contributions
Drafting teams with topic expertise
Coordination with the CBD Secretariat

Advocacy Strategies

Examples of advocacy tools include:

- Direct engagement with government delegations & Gender Focal Points
- Collaboration with CBD Secretariat and allies
- Highlighting gender equality in biodiversity negotiations
- Creative advocacy initiatives



Press conference

Advancing gender justice in biodiversity data and policy

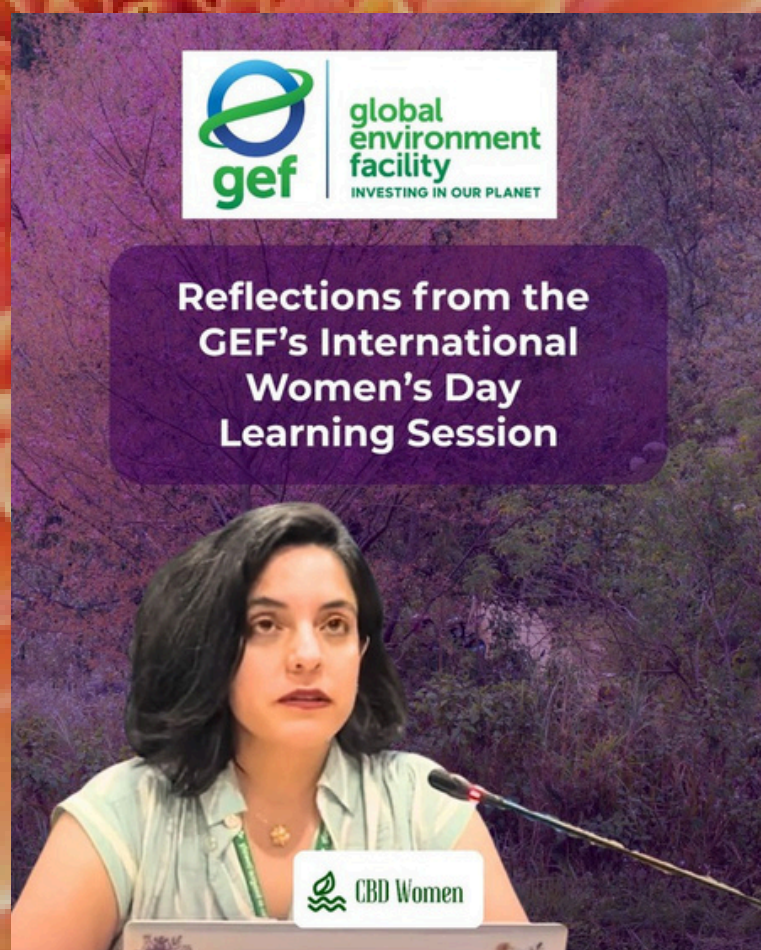
17 February 2026
12:30 - 13:00
Sheikh Zayed space - Building A
Ground Floor Atrium



Side Events and Public Engagement

Side events provide opportunities to:

- Showcase research and experiences
- Highlight gender perspectives in biodiversity
- Build partnerships across sectors



CSW70 EVENTO PARALELO

Rompiendo el Silencio: Barreras en el Acceso a la Justicia para Mujeres Defensoras del Ambiente

REGÍSTRESE AQUÍ

MARZO 13, 2026
12 - 13:30 HRS (EST)

CONSULADO GENERAL
EN NUEVA YORK

IDIOMA: ESPAÑOL

CBW Women

Photography: @cimacfoto

BRASIL GELEDÉS

Mecanismo de Participación de Sociedad Civil de América Latina y el Caribe para el Desarrollo Sostenible - MPPS/CAC

ONU MUJERES

Ministerio de Desarrollo Social

Women's Major Group

CBW Women

Additional Engagement Platforms

ECO Newspaper

- Daily briefing publication during CBD meetings
- Used to communicate advocacy messages and updates

Daily Coordination Meetings

- Quick updates on negotiation developments
- Strategy planning for interventions and advocacy



Participation Before, During and After CBD Meetings

Before Meetings

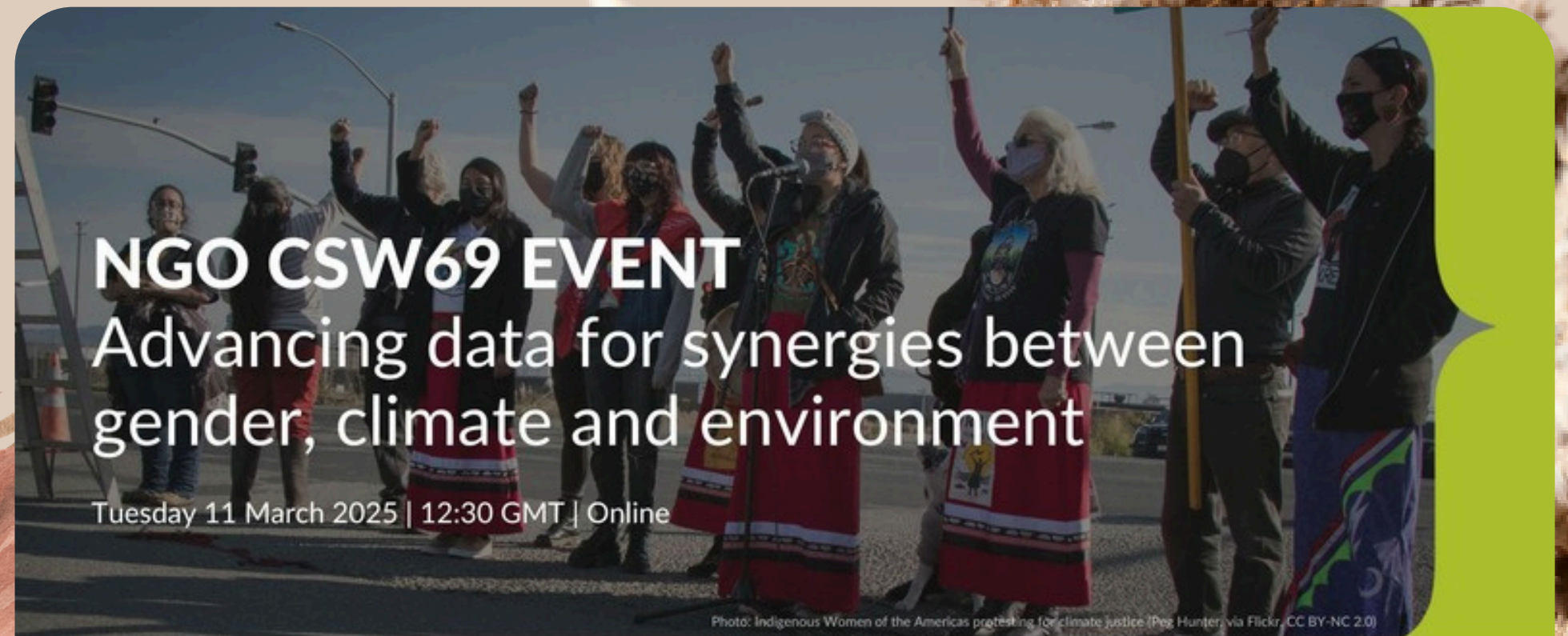
Members can:

- Participate in preparatory workshops
- Contribute to policy submissions
- Coordinate advocacy positions

During Meetings

Members can:

- Attend sessions
- Deliver statements
- Participate in side events
- Coordinate through the daily caucus meetings



United Nations
Climate Change



After Meetings

Members:

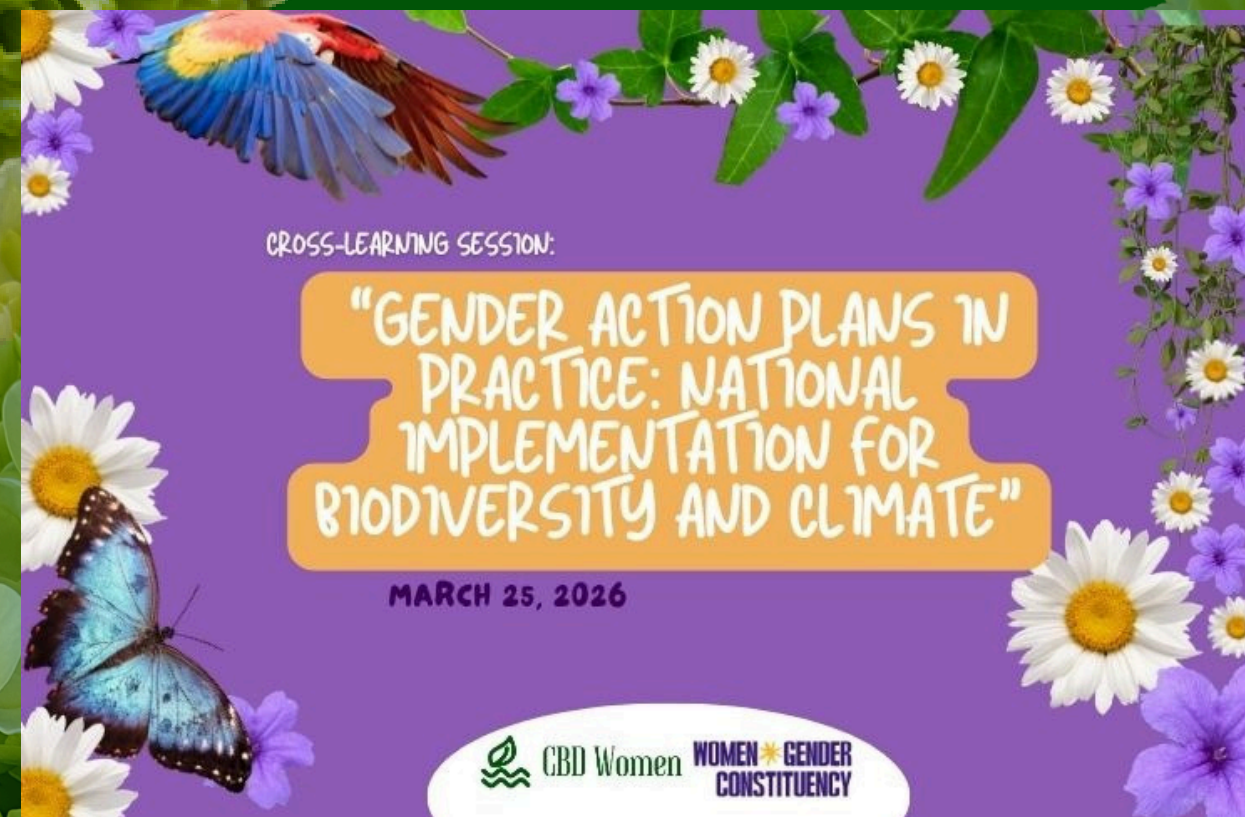
- Monitor implementation
- Share knowledge and reports of outcomes and future strategies from the meetings
- Continue policy advocacy at national levels



Opportunities for Youth and Women Organizations

Youth and women's organizations can engage by:

- Joining the CBD Women's Caucus network
- Participating in capacity-building workshops
- Contributing to policy submissions
- Collaborating in advocacy campaigns
- Attending CBD meetings and side events



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Peer-to-Peer Learning: Advancing Gender and Biodiversity Data

The CBD Women's Caucus and IIED are inviting organisations and individuals to take part in a peer-to-peer learning series focused on advancing gender justice in biodiversity data.

5 ONLINE SESSIONS

1. Induction - 7 May 2026, 14:00-15:00 UTC
2. Data collection - 21 May 2026, 14:00-15:30 UTC
3. Data analysis & management - 4 June 2026, 14:00-15:30 UTC
4. Data use & communication - 18 June 2026, 14:00-15:30 UTC
5. Closing - 2 July 2026, 14:00-15:00 UTC



SCAN TO THE
REGISTRATION
FORM

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS
APRIL 15, 2026

For any questions: genderandbiodiversitydata@cbdwomenscaucus.org



Organizations are also encouraged to seek accreditation to participate in official CBD meetings. Collaborated accreditation of members



Challenges and Lessons Learned

Some challenges faced include:

- Limited access to funding for participation
- Complexity of CBD negotiation processes
- Limited speaking opportunities in certain sessions
- High volume of policy documents

Lessons learned:

- **Collective coordination strengthens influence**
- **Early engagement in processes is essential**
- **Partnerships with allies amplify advocacy impact**

Ways Forward

Moving forward, it is important to:

- Strengthen youth and women leadership in biodiversity governance
- Expand capacity building and training opportunities
- Increase participation in policy submissions
- Support representation from Indigenous and local communities
- Enhance collaboration across global biodiversity networks



UNFCCC GENDER ACTION PLAN & CBD GENDER PLAN OF ACTION

Synergies for implementation at national level

April 2026



CONCLUSION

The CBD Women's Caucus demonstrates that collective advocacy works.

Through collaboration, women and youth organizations can:

- Shape biodiversity policies
- Ensure gender equality in environmental governance
- Protect ecosystems while promoting social justice





STAY IN TOUCH WITH US!



cbd womenscaucus@gmail.com



www.cbdwomenscaucus.org

