

NOTIFICATION
Code of Conduct to Prevent Harassment at CBD Events

Dear Madam/Sir,

This is to kindly draw your attention to the Code of Conduct issued by the United Nations (UN) to prevent harassment, including sexual harassment, at UN System events, which include meetings, conferences, side events, workshops and other events organized under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols' processes (CBD events).

As we are about to meet in Geneva for a series of in-person meetings, the time is opportune to remind ourselves of the importance of ensuring a safe work or conference environment for everyone present either on site or online. The UN and the CBD Secretariat believe that it is our duty to be guided by the highest ethical and professional standards during UN and CBD events, and to remind all participants that they are expected to conduct themselves with integrity and respect towards others, whether a delegate or a staff member. The CBD Secretariat is committed to promoting a work as well as conference environment free of discrimination, harassment, including sexual harassment and abuse of authority, in which all people are treated with dignity and respect.

The UN Code of Conduct contains information on its scope and applicability, defines the term harassment and provides examples of harassment, and outlines the complaint process and appropriate actions that may be taken if such a situation occurs. It applies to all meetings and participants, including all persons attending or involved in any capacity in CBD events. The Code of Conduct is available in the six United Nations languages at the following link, in the "Important Information" section: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/geneva-2022>.

It is my hope that the Code of Conduct will enable all those concerned to become more engaged and proactive in establishing and maintaining CBD events that are free from any form of harassment.

I thank you for your attention and cooperation on this important matter.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Executive Secretary

To: CBD National Focal Points, ABS National Focal Points, Cartagena Protocol Focal Points, SBSTTA Focal Points, international organizations, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and relevant organizations