



STATEMENT BY

ELIZABETH MARUMA MREMA

ACTING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

on the occasion of

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

"I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights"

This year's theme for International Women's Day highlights UN Women's new campaign, [Generation Equality](#), which aims to accelerate action for gender equality and marks the 25th anniversary of the landmark Beijing Platform for Action.

2020 is a pivotal year for advancing the global agenda on gender equality, and for reaching agreement on a new set of commitments to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity in the coming years. At the UN Biodiversity Conference in November 2018 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, countries agreed that the process to develop the post-2020 global biodiversity framework would be gender responsive. Countries and stakeholders have since been working to determine how to bring to reality the shared vision for 2050, in which biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, for the benefit of the planet and all people – women and girls, as well as boys and men.

Together with UN Women, the Secretariat co-organized an expert workshop to consider ways to integrate a gender perspective in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, held in April 2019 in New York, USA. Country representatives and experts from a range of organizations identified key needs for post-2020, including advancing women's leadership, participation and access to decision-making; promoting and protecting women's rights and access, control and ownership of resources; and enabling actions to enhance and ensure equitable benefits.

In November 2019, the Secretariat launched a new guide, on [Addressing Gender Issues and Actions in Biodiversity Objectives](#), to provide concrete ideas on what can be done to step up progress. We know that by addressing gender-based differences and gaps, and empowering women to fulfill their potential, we can accelerate progress for biodiversity as well as for gender equality.

In implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, and looking towards the future, countries and partners all over the world are strengthening their efforts to ensure biodiversity actions can also support



our shared goals of gender equality. It is for all of us to ensure the post-2020 global biodiversity framework can make a difference for biodiversity, and for those around the world, especially women, who depend on it for their livelihoods, and their futures. Together we can make equality a reality, for this generation, and those to come.
