

**Statement from the Cohab Initiative Secretariat (Co-operation on Health and Biodiversity) on Item 5 of the provisional agenda:
Mid-term review of the Gender Plan of Action 2023 - 2030**

Thank you Chair,

The Cohab Initiative Secretariat views the Gender Plan of Action through the lens of health equity. The fact that there are measurable differences in health among population groups is in many ways linked to the differentiated relationships between those groups and biodiversity and their different dependencies on the ecosystem services which biodiversity underpins. In other words, addressing inequalities in health outcomes requires that inequalities in conservation policies and interventions are also addressed. Therefore, implementing the Gender Plan of Action has broader societal importance beyond the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

In this context we propose an amendment to the text of the draft recommendation, under paragraph 2. We believe it is important to specifically note the KM-GBF, and the other action plans under the CBD which are not intrinsic to the KM-GBF but nevertheless key to its wider mainstreaming and application, such as the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health under COP decision 16/19 which is a separate voluntary instrument.

With permission I will read our proposed amendment:

“2. **Encourages** Parties, other Governments, subnational governments, cities and other local authorities and relevant organizations to continue and strengthen their efforts to implement the Gender Plan of Action, **in its entirety, and support the gender-responsive implementation of the KM-GBF and of the thematic action plans under the Convention working towards the 2050 Biodiversity Vision**, in particular by:” (etc)

Thank you.

Cohab Initiative Secretariat, 15th February 2026