



**Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources First meeting
Geneva, 14–18 November 2023**

**Agenda Item 1. “Opening statement”
14 November 2023**

Thank you Chair

My name is Ruth Spencer from Antigua and Barbuda, speaking on behalf of the CBD Women Caucus.

We have walked the walk that led to having the Nagoya Protocol today, as the African Group stated.

The CBD Women Caucus is responding to the CALL in paragraph 14 of the decision 15/9.

We are here, as actors and partners, and ready to fully and effectively participate. Our priorities must be conceptualized and taken into account.

We urge Parties and other stakeholders, including other Governments, Business and Academia to act accordingly with what they have agreed and said here and in so many other fora.

Therefore, the CDB Women’s Caucus expects the inclusion of gender responsiveness and gender approach in the next assessments of DSI issues, including in the Multilateral Mechanism for ABS from DSI, and in capacity building considerations.

We also call for gender responsiveness in all the work and frameworks and mechanisms relating to DSI in line with the KM-GBF by all actors involved in DSI. We further call for a verifiable, fair, transparent, collaborative and accountable process that responds to the needs of women.

We look forward to further discussions on open access and benefit sharing.

Thank you Chair.

For further information contact CBD Women’s Caucus Coordination
Amelia Arreguin - amelia.arreguin@women4biodiversity.org