

Mr. Chairperson, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this debate my name is Lourdes Barragan from Ecuador, and I will be speaking on behalf of the women and gender constituency.

Women are the majority of the world's subsistence agricultural producers, poor livestock keepers and involved in natural resource management. Women play an essential role in land use in general and future land sector and land use negotiations should recognize them as rights holders with unique needs, preferences and contributions and ensure that actions proposed are based on a gender-responsive approach that recognizes the gender-differentiated use of, access to, and control of the land resources provided through land use.

Land use sector policies should also respect rights, including the rights of women and indigenous peoples and ensure rights-based approaches to land tenure. They should take into account the importance of biodiversity for women, incorporate key issues on ecosystems, agriculture and food security and gender that are being discussed in the Sustainable Development Goals and have been addressed in the Convention on Biodiversity. The land use discussions should consider approaches that recognize the role of gender differentiated traditional knowledge in sustainable use of ecosystems, the role of community conserved areas in sustainable land use, and the redirection of perverse incentives to address the drivers of forest and other ecosystem loss like the expansion of agriculture and cattle ranching already mentioned.

These suggestions are in line with the example put forward by Austria this morning and we propose that processes should be inclusive, safe, democratic and transparent for all stakeholders and rights holders, particularly women.

Finally, we emphasize the need for strong gender sensitive safeguards to protect human rights and biodiversity in land use policies that further strengthen and build upon the existing REDD+ safeguards. Overall, negotiations should recognize and incorporate gender as a crucial crosscutting issue.

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