To: All Governors and Alternate Governors of the Common Fund for Commodities

Your Excellency
Dear Madam,
Dear Sir,

As you are aware, the United Nations declared November 25th as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. This notable date marks the start of 16 days of activities aimed at promoting a violence free future for women and girls, which will conclude on December 10th.

As Chair of the Governing Council of the CFC I would like to welcome the #16Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence to make a difference for the better. I would like to recall that Common Fund for Commodities considers the Sustainable Development Goal 5 “Gender Equality” as one of the core SDGs to be addressed in projects supported by the CFC.

As the #COVID19 pandemic triggered a surge in violence against women and girls (VAWG), we stand in solidarity with them and value the power of international cooperation in ending this violence.

The Common Fund for Commodities recognizes that VAWG destroys women’s aspirations to descent and equitable life, makes them lose job opportunities and costs billions worldwide, increasing the household poverty and misery. The economic and social costs of violence create a huge impediment to sustainable development. Economic empowerment of women is a development challenge where projects supported by the CFC contribute towards SGD5, including elimination of gender based violence.

Common Fund for Commodities
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
I would like to use this opportunity to call on all members of the Common Fund for Commodities to support the activities of the CFC in identifying, prioritising and supporting projects which contribute to the achievement of SDG 5 as part of the global agenda for sustainable development, including elimination of gender-based violence. We look forward to submission of innovative project proposals to the CFC’s Open Call, and to our joint efforts in mobilising greater financial support for sustainable development in global commodity value chains.

I look forward to joining forces with all members of the Common Fund for Commodities towards preventing gender based violence, through the instruments provided by the Fund, to build a brighter future for all. This is our one little step towards a century long journey seeking equality of genders.

Sincerely yours,

Mario Oyarzabal
Ambassador
Chair of the Governing Council of the Common Fund for Commodities