



PRESS RELEASE

Governments and representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities outline recommendations for increasing their future participation in the UN Biodiversity Convention within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

- *Eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) discussed form and content of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) contributions in future work of the Convention.*
- *IPLCs recognised as full and effective partners in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.*
- *Cultural and biological diversity recognised as intimately linked, equally necessary for the long-term resilience of both societies and ecosystems.*

22 November 2019 – Delegates to the eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (11WG8J) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) agreed on a set of recommendations for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Review of Implementation regarding a fully integrated programme of work on matters related to indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to be agreed next year at the UN Biodiversity Conference¹ in Kunming, China.

Recommendations were also made regarding future elements of work on the links between nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

“I am particularly pleased,” said Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Officer in Charge of the CBD, “with the consensus reached by Parties on the development of a fully integrated Programme of Work on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, fully integrating the views of the representatives of IPLCs on an ambitious outline of work.”

The Conference of the Parties established a working group, open to all Parties, and indigenous peoples and local communities’ representatives, specifically to address the implementation of Article 8 (j) and related provisions of the CBD. The Working Group has now met 11 times since its establishment in 1998, and has some notable achievements, in particular raising the profile of indigenous peoples and local community issues throughout the CBD process. The Working Group has successfully developed and

¹ Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity; Tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; Fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing; Kunming, China, October 2020.



monitored the implementation of the work programme on Article 8(j) and related provisions, as well as delivering guidelines and other tools.

Agenda items discussed included:

- **Contributions of the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities and cultural diversity to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.** The 11WG8J held an in-depth dialogue with representatives from Parties, IPLCs, the United Nations, and scientists, all of whom presented their experiences on the contributions of the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of IPLCs and cultural diversity to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- **Future Programme of Work on Traditional Knowledge.** The 11WG8J considered the development of a fully integrated programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions within the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Contribution allowed for the full and effective participation of IPLCs in the work of the CBD, on the basis of achievements to date, taking into account the ongoing and postponed tasks of Parties. It also took into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development² and its goals, the Paris Agreement³ under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and gaps identified. The Working Group adopted draft recommendations for consideration and adoption by the 2020 UN Biodiversity Conference.
- **Nature and Culture in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.** 11WG8J considered possible elements of work on the links between nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Across millennia, people have developed a variety of cultures, languages, knowledge and belief systems by interacting not only with each other, but with plants, animals and landscapes. As a result, culturally and spiritually grounded values, beliefs and worldviews on biodiversity are often indivisible from ecosystem health, sustainable use of natural resources, human well-being, traditional and/or local livelihoods, and opportunities for environmental stewardship. Biological, as well as cultural diversity contributes to resilient ecosystems. The Working Group adopted draft recommendations for consideration and adoption by the 2020 UN Biodiversity Conference.

NOTES TO EDITORS

11WG8J results and Policy Brief available at: www.cbd.int/meetings/WG8J-11

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 196 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya

² See General Assembly resolution [70/1](#), entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Registration No. [1-54113](#)

Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 172 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 123 Parties.

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