

NOTIFICATION**Submission of views and information in preparation for the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**

Dear Sir or Madam,

At the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 16), Parties decided to establish the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, through [decision 16/5](#).

The mandate of the Subsidiary Body is to provide advice to the Conference of the Parties, other subsidiary bodies and, subject to their request, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization on matters of relevance to indigenous peoples and local communities that are within the scope of the Convention and its Protocols.

The first meeting of the Subsidiary Body is scheduled to take place from 27 to 30 October 2025 in Panama City, Panama.

To support the timely preparation of documentation for this meeting, Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders are hereby invited to submit views and information on the following matters:

- 1. Implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030.*

In [decision 16/4](#), the Conference of the Parties adopted a new programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030. Under Element 1 on conservation and restoration, the programme of work mandates the Subsidiary Body to undertake the following task:

Task 1.1: Develop guidelines¹, with the full and effective participation² of indigenous peoples and local communities, to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the implementation of Targets 2 and 3 of the Framework, including on indigenous and traditional territories, to support the protection and restoration practices led by indigenous peoples and local communities.

Task 1.2: Identify and promote best practices to secure land tenure and governance by indigenous peoples and local communities and develop guidelines for the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and of resource use in spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments, in accordance with national legislation and international obligations.

¹ For the purpose of the present programme of work, “guidelines” refers to voluntary guidelines

² For the purpose of the present programme of work, “participation” should be understood as being full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive.

To: CBD National Focal Points, SBSTTA Focal Points, TK Focal Points, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations

cc: Cartagena Protocol focal points, and ABS focal points

2. *Modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j).*

In [decision 16/5](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Subsidiary Body, at its first meeting, to further elaborate and finalize its modus operandi on the basis of the draft contained in [recommendation 12/2](#) of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention, taking into consideration the consolidated modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice³ and the modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation,⁴ as well as established procedures of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention.

The Conference of the Parties further requested the Subsidiary Body to take into consideration, inter alia, the following elements when developing elements of its modus operandi:

- (a) The need for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities;
- (b) The cost efficiency of its operations and management compared with those of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention;
- (c) The full recognition of its operations as Party-led processes;
- (d) The criteria and process for the selection of representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities to be designated at the beginning of each of its meetings from the seven socio-cultural regions to participate in its work as friends of the Bureau, and the role of Parties and the Bureau in those modalities;
- (e) Interaction with the other subsidiary bodies, with a view to minimizing duplication and any additional burden to those subsidiary bodies, while enhancing synergies.

The proposed *modus operandi* is to be submitted for consideration at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to its adoption.

Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders are invited to submit views and information on the above matters no later than **26 May 2025**. Information should be submitted through the central portal of the clearing-house mechanism using the following link: <https://chm.cbd.int/submit/submission/new?notification=2025-061>. Should technical problems prevent the use of the clearing-house mechanism, contributions may be sent through an official letter addressed to the Executive Secretary, by e-mail to secretariat@cbd.int.

I thank you for your cooperation in this matter and your continued support for the work of the Convention.

Please accept, Sir, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Astrid Schomaker
Executive Secretary

³ [Decision VIII/10](#), annex III

⁴ [Decision XIII/25](#), annex