

Statement by the Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the twenty-second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues during the discussion of agenda item 5 (f), on dialogue on Indigenous platforms established within United Nations entities

New York, 17 April 2023

Distinguished members of the Permanent Forum, delegates and representatives of indigenous peoples,

I would like to respectfully acknowledge the traditional guardians of the land on which this meeting is held, the Haudenosaunee people.

The fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was held last December, culminated with a great achievement: the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. This adoption marks a historic commitment to addressing the global biodiversity crisis while advancing a human rights-based approach in its implementation. Throughout the Framework, indigenous peoples and local communities are referred to multiple times, emphasizing their critical role as custodians of biodiversity.

The implementation of the Framework relies on various thematic programmes, including a new programme of work and institutional arrangement for Article 8 (j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities. Indeed, at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Parties decided that the programme of work on Article 8 (j) should be more holistic, forward-looking and integrated into the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

This process includes a series of intersessional activities to be held before the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in 2024. Parties to the Convention, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations provided their views through the peer review process on the proposed elements of the new programme of work, which took place from November 2022 to March 2023.

In June, an ad hoc technical expert group will meet to build on the results of the peer review and provide advice on the new programme, which encompasses six themes:

1. Sustainable use;
2. Conservation and restoration;
3. Sharing of benefits from genetic resources;
4. Knowledge and culture;
5. Protection of indigenous peoples and local communities and traditional knowledge;
6. Full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

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The expert group will also review possible options for institutional arrangements, as described by the Chair of the Working Group on Article 8 (j), and a modus operandi related to indigenous peoples and local communities in the Convention.

The report of the expert group will be considered at the next session of the Working Group, which is scheduled for November 2023, to advance the next iteration of the new programme of work. Following this, a new programme will be proposed for adoption at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Indigenous peoples and local communities play an active role in this process and are invited to participate in full force in all stages of its development to ensure that the new programme of work truly reflects their rights and interests and strengthens their role as key partners in achieving global commitments for biodiversity.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is committed to ensuring the participation of indigenous peoples in this process, inviting its representatives, in particular women and young people, and the Permanent Forum to take part in shaping the new programme of work.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework acknowledges the tireless efforts of indigenous peoples and local communities in protecting our planet's biodiversity. By listening to indigenous peoples, we commit to rebuilding our relationship with nature in partnership with them. Together, we can make a difference and create a truly just, equitable and sustainable world for all.

Thank you.
