



Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

First meeting

Panama City, 20–24 October 2025

Agenda Item 4 - Modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Thank you, Chair

I am speaking on behalf of the CBD Women's Caucus.

The Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) must guarantee the representation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities on equal footing with governments, as established in practice. To make this representation and participation truly inclusive it must comply with Target 22 while guaranteeing sustained capacity-building, adequate resourcing, and safe, accessible spaces. Embedding gender expertise across all processes will ensure that the Subsidiary Body's work and outcomes include the knowledge, practices, and leadership of women from Indigenous Peoples and local communities, address existing data gaps, and strengthen the implementation, review and reporting of the Convention.

In this regard, we suggest the following amendments to the document CBD/SB8J/1/3:

- **In the Recommendation section, within the Preambular Part,**

Acknowledging the unique role of indigenous peoples and local communities, **including women and youth among them,** their innovations, practices and traditional knowledge in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and their contributions to the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention, and recognizing the need **to ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and for the full and effective** participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, **including women and youth among them,** in the work of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities established by decision [16/5](#) of 1 November 2024,

- **In the Recommendation section, Paragraph 3,**

3. *Encourages Urges* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to continue and enhance their support **to ensure the the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive capacity building, representation and participation** ~~for the full and effective participation~~ of representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, **including women and youth among them,** in the meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j)

and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, including through contributions to the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating the Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

- **Under Annex, under Section I. Functions, paragraph 1,**

The [Subsidiary Body] on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity will perform its functions under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biodiversity and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity for items referred to it by them, ~~[in a manner consistent with the mandates of Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation]~~, ~~in collaboration with the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation~~. [The [Subsidiary Body] on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions shall carry out its functions taking into account the roles and functions of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, with a view to ensuring complementarity with their work and avoiding **unnecessary** overlaps.]

- **Under Annex under Section I Functions, Paragraph 1, (b),**

(b) To provide advice to the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols and other subsidiary bodies, on measures that enhance the implementation of Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities, **and women and youth among them**. This includes providing advice on the development and implementation of legal and other appropriate forms of measures to respect, preserve and maintain the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity,

- **Under Annex, Section II- Operating Principles, Paragraph 2,**

2. In carrying out its functions, the [Subsidiary Body] on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention shall align the elements of its programme of work with the ~~relevant parts of the~~ Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in particular its **Section C and its 2030 targets, as well as with the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030)** and prioritize the tasks that need early action.

- **Under Annex, Section II- Operating Principles, Paragraph 3,**

3. In promoting the implementation, **reviewing and reporting** of the programme of work contained in the annex to decision --, the [Subsidiary Body] on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention shall cooperate with and benefit from the assistance of United Nations agencies and other processes that have complimentary functions and work on matters related to indigenous peoples and local communities.

- **Under Annex, Section IV- Bureau and Co-Chairs, Paragraph 8 and footnote,**

8. The [Subsidiary Body] will have two co-chairs [elected by the Conference of the Parties], one nominated by Parties of the regional group that exercises its turn, in a rotation among United Nations regional groups, and the other nominated by representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities **through their own self-determined process**. At least one of the co-chairs will be selected from a developing country, ~~taking into account gender balance~~. **The proposal and selection of candidates should ensure gender balance and expertise**. [The co-chairs shall take office from the end of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which they have been elected and remain in office until their successors take office at the end of the following ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties.] [The number and length of the meetings and activities of the Subsidiary

Body and its organs should be reflected in the budget adopted by the Conference of the Parties ~~or~~ **including** other sources of extrabudgetary funding.]

Footnote: **'Expertise' should be understood in an inclusive manner, recognizing the knowledge, practice and leadership of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including women and youth among them, as knowledge holders.**

- Under **Annex, Section IV- Bureau and Co-Chairs, Paragraph 10,**

10. Further to the established and effective practice of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Bureau of the [Subsidiary Body] will continue to invite representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities to designate at the beginning of each meeting of the [Subsidiary Body] one representative each from the seven sociocultural regions identified by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to participate in the work of the [Subsidiary Body]; **through their own self-determined process, ensuring gender balance.** as friends of the Bureau.

- Under **Annex Section V- Budgetary matters , Paragraph 11,**

11. The [Subsidiary Body] should meet in each intersessional period, back-to-back with meetings of the other subsidiary bodies of the Convention, unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties ~~;~~ with due consideration to the importance of ensuring **the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation** ~~the full and effective participation~~ of the developing country Parties ~~[and indigenous peoples and local communities]]~~.

- Under **Annex Section VI- Focal Points , Paragraph 15,**

15. Parties should designate **and support** national focal points to follow up on the work of the [Subsidiary Body], **by providing capacity building and financial resources. The focal point should have experience in the processes of the Convention and competence in matters related to indigenous peoples and local communities in the context of the Convention.** The existing national focal points for Article 8(j) and related provision may continue to be the focal points for the [Subsidiary Body] on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions.

We would like to ask Parties for support.

Thank you.

The CBD Women's Caucus (CBD WC) is the women's constituency within the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It stands as a self-organised global platform, supporting women and girls worldwide to advocate for their rights within biodiversity related decision-making processes across all levels.

For more information: coordination@cbd womenscaucus.org