



**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  
27–30 Octobre 2025, Panama City, Panamá**

**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**

**Date: 27 October 2025**

Statement on behalf of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), delivered by Jennifer Corpuz

Thank you, Co-Chair.

I speak on behalf of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB).

Adoption of the modus operandi is essential to fulfilling the promise of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention Relevant for Indigenous Peoples and local communities as a powerful platform for dialogue and cooperation in achieving the goals and targets of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). The text before us contains a few brackets that we hope can be cleared at this meeting.

Our proposals on the modus operandi are guided by the following principles: applying mutatis mutandis the established and effective practices of Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions; simplicity and avoiding overly prescriptive language, and; the modus operandi should not be more burdensome for Indigenous Peoples and local communities than for Parties.

Full, effective, inclusive and equitable participation must respect the self-selection processes led by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including women and youth, promoting equity, diversity and even allowing language and accessibility barriers to be overcome. In accordance with Target 22 of the KMGBF, it is important for the Subsidiary Body to ensure representation and not just participation.

In view of the adoption of decision 16/5, all brackets around the words “Subsidiary Body” must be lifted and the mandate as contained in paragraph 1 of decision 16/5 should be used to replace the text in paragraph 1(b) of the Annex to document SB8J/1/3.

With regard to the Bureau and Co-Chairs, following the mutatis mutandis principle, the Subsidiary Body on Article 8j should continue to maintain the two Co-Chairs who should be elected by the Conference of the Parties. One co-chair shall be nominated by the Parties and the other nominated by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, through their own governance structures, representatives and organizations, on a rotational basis among the seven sociocultural regions defined by the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Experience in the processes of the Convention, gender balance and culturally relevant expertise shall be taken into account in the nomination and selection.

The existing national focal points for Article 8(j) and related provisions may continue to be the focal points of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j). We further urge Parties to designate additional focal points from Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Focal points should have experience in the processes of the CBD and competence in matters related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the context of the Convention. Focal points should ensure continued engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.



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TEXTO EN VERDE Y MAYÚSCULAS | CAPITALIZED TEXT IN GREEN: PROPUESTA DE  
NUEVO TEXTO | PROPOSED NEW TEXT

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### III. Recommendations

1. In the light of decision [16/5](#), the Subsidiary Body may wish to recommend that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Acknowledging* the ~~unique~~ RELEVANT role of indigenous peoples and local communities INCLUDING THEIR WOMEN AND YOUTH, their innovations, OWN practices, INDIGENOUS and traditional knowledge SYSTEMS, PRACTICES AND TECHNOLOGIES in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>[1]</sup> and its Protocols and of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,<sup>[2]</sup> 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 for the full and effective participation AND EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE REPRESENTATION of indigenous peoples and local communities 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,

1. *Adopts* the 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 annexed to the present decision;

2. *Invites* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to support 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 by further incorporating and promoting the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030;<sup>[3]</sup>

3 ~~Encourages~~ URGES Parties, AND ENCOURAGES other Governments and relevant organizations to continue and enhance their support for the FULL, EFFECTIVE, EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE REPRESENTATION of indigenous peoples and local communities INCLUDING THEIR WOMEN AND YOUTH 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.



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**Annex**<sup>\*</sup>

**Proposed modus operandi of the ~~permanent~~ Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

**I. Functions**

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 **DUPLICATION overlaps.** The functions of the ~~Subsidiary Body~~ on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions are:

(a) To ~~promote and support~~ **AND REVIEW** the implementation of the work undertaken under the Convention pertaining to Article 8(j) and related provisions~~][promote the implementation and review][review and promote the implementation]~~ of the **AND ITS** programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions, including Article 10(c) of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities, as contained in the annex to decision **16/5**;

(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. 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.~~ **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.**

**II. Operating principles**



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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 **SECTION C AND** its 2030 targets, and prioritize the tasks that need **URGENT AND/OR** early action.

3. In promoting the implementation of the programme of work contained in the annex to decision 16/4, 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, **EXPERT SUBSIDIARY BODIES** and other processes that have complimentary functions and work on matters related to indigenous peoples and local communities.

**III. Procedural matters**

4. In line with paragraph 5 of rule 26 of the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties apply, mutatis mutandis, to the meetings of the {Subsidiary Body} on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions, with the exception of rule 18.

5. When the {Subsidiary Body} on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions serves a Protocol of the Convention, decisions under the Protocol shall be taken only by the Parties to the Protocol.

6. The {Subsidiary Body} on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions should undertake any tasks that fall within the scope of its programme of work and those that are referred to it by the Conference of the Parties or the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the respective Protocol and should report on its work to those bodies.

**IV. Bureau and co-chairs**

7. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties will serve as the Bureau of the {Subsidiary Body} on Article 8(j).

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,<sup>[1]</sup> and the other nominated by representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities **ON A ROTATIONAL BASIS THROUGH THEIR OWN GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES**. At least one of the co-chairs will be selected from a developing country, ~~taking into account gender balance~~. {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 other sources of extrabudgetary funding.}

9. Candidates for the co-chairing of the {Subsidiary Body} should have **experience KNOWLEDGE** in the processes of the Convention and competence in matters related to indigenous peoples and local communities in the context of the Convention. The regional groups, when identifying a candidate, should take into account the availability of time that the candidates have for the work of the {Subsidiary Body} on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions. In the event that the co-chair nominated by Parties and elected by the Conference of the Parties is from a country that is not a Party to one or both Protocols, a substitute would be assigned from among members of the Bureau



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representing a Party to the Protocol to chair items related to one or the other Protocol. The co-chairs of the {Subsidiary Body} will be ex officio members of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties. The President of the Conference of the Parties will invite the co-chairs of the {Subsidiary Body} to the sessions of the Bureau on matters related to the {Subsidiary Body}.

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, **REPRESENTATIVE BODIES AND ORGANIZATIONS** 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}, as friends of the Bureau.

**V. Budgetary matters**

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 and effective participation of **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND** the developing country Parties ~~{and indigenous peoples and local communities}}~~.

12. The {Subsidiary Body} on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions may, within the budgetary resources approved by the Conference of the Parties or the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena or Nagoya Protocols in respect to a specific decision by those bodies within the mandate of the {Subsidiary Body}, make requests to the Executive Secretary and use mechanisms under the Convention or its Protocols, as appropriate.

13. The Executive Secretary should provide to the {Subsidiary Body} the support necessary to carry out its functions and mandate. The {Subsidiary Body}, may, as appropriate, and subject to the availability of resources, use mechanisms that are established under the Convention. ~~The meetings of the {Subsidiary Body} on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions will be conducted in plenary sessions or, where the necessary budgetary resources have been approved by the Conference of the Parties[, in open-ended sessional working groups, as appropriate. Up to two open-ended sessional working groups of the {Subsidiary Body} on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions could be established and operate simultaneously during meetings of the {Subsidiary Body}. The working groups would not meet in parallel to the plenary sessions. The working groups shall be established on the basis of well-defined terms of reference and will be open to all Parties and observers].~~

14. Upon a decision of the Conference of the Parties considering it necessary to carry out its mandate, and subject to the availability of resources, ad hoc technical expert groups may be established **ENSURING THE FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES** ~~in accordance with section H, paragraph 8, of the consolidated modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, as contained in annex III to decision VIII/10 of 31 March 2006.~~

**VI. Focal points**

15. Parties should designate national focal points to follow up on the work of the {Subsidiary Body}. 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. **FOCAL POINTS**



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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. PARTIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO DESIGNATE ADDITIONAL FOCAL POINTS FROM INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AND TO ENGAGE WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS.

VII. Documentation

16. The Secretariat shall make the documentation for meetings of the {Subsidiary Body} on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions available at least six weeks before the opening of the meeting, in accordance with rule 10 of the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties.

17. The number and length of documents ADDRESS REQUESTS FROM THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON ARTICLE 8(J) AND OTHER PROVISIONS, including information documents, should be kept to a minimum, and documentation should include proposed conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the {Subsidiary Body} on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions.

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\* The present annex is reproduced exactly as contained in recommendation [12/2](#) of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention.

[1] Following the practice of rotation in the chairing of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, and with a view to avoiding that, at any one time, a regional group provides the chairs of more than one subsidiary body, the order of the regions from which the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention is elected shall be as follows: African States, Western European and other States, Asia-Pacific States, Latin America and Caribbean States and Eastern European States.

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