

Sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body Implementation

16–19 February 2026
Rome, Italy

AGENDA ITEM 10: FUNCTIONAL REVIEW OF THE SECRETARIAT

DATE: 15 FEBRUARY 2026

Statement by the **International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB)**.

The text of the Convention on Biological Diversity itself recognizes, in its article 8(j), that traditional knowledge is of equal importance as science in ensuring that *in situ* biodiversity is conserved and protected. With the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its 8 targets that specifically recognize the contributions, roles and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to meeting the objectives of the Convention, it becomes clearer that traditional knowledge plays a crucial role in achieving the vision of living in harmony with nature. As such, it has always been the practice, proven to be effective, that the traditional knowledge unit of the Secretariat has always been located within its Science and Policy Division.

The proposal in the functional review to move the traditional knowledge unit to the strategic partnerships division runs counter to the intent and spirit of the Convention and the KMGBF. Furthermore, this proposed change places the unit that supports the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) under a separate unit from those that support SBI and SBSTTA. Therefore, the IIFB proposes retaining the traditional knowledge unit within the Policy and Science Division.

The IIFB looks forward to further engaging on this issue at this meeting and beyond.

The IIFB's new suggested text is in **GREEN CAPITALS** and suggested text to be deleted strikethrough in red in the document CBD/SBI/6/10:

III. Recommendation

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation may wish to adopt a recommendation¹ along the following lines:

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation

1. *Takes note* of the executive summary report of the functional review of the Secretariat prepared by an external consulting team, as contained in annex I to document [CBD/SBI/6/10](#), including the recommendations for short-, medium- and long-term actions by the Secretariat;
2. *Notes* the ongoing consultations on those recommendations within the Secretariat;
3. *Notes* with appreciation the follow-up activities being undertaken or to be undertaken by the Executive Secretary, as proposed in the recommendations of the functional review, namely:

¹ The estimated extrabudgetary resource requirements for the activities outlined in the draft recommendation are shown in annex II to the present document.

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(a) Initiating the implementation of short- and medium-term actions, including an updated organizational structure, **FOLLOWING CONSULTATIONS WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT AND ENSURING EQUAL TREATMENT OF THE THREE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE CONVENTION**;

5. *Recommends* that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Take notes* of the executive summary of the report on the external in-depth functional review of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity,² as contained in annex I to document CBD/SBI/6/10;

2. *Notes* the outcome of the functional review, and welcomes the updated structure of the Secretariat, which should lead to enhanced synergies and efficiencies within the Secretariat;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the follow-up actions undertaken by the Executive Secretary,³ namely:

(a) The initiation of the implementation of short- and medium-term actions proposed in the recommendations of the functional review, including an updated organizational structure, **WHILE ENSURING EQUAL TREATMENT OF THE THREE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE CONVENTION**;

Annex I

Executive summary of the report on the external in-depth functional review of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Policy, Capacity and Monitoring Division

34. Provide a clearer focus on Secretariat programmatic, scientific, technical and policy support in areas central to the KMGBF, including work on biome-based Programmes of Work, reducing threats to biodiversity, and promoting sustainable use and traditional knowledge (**ARTICLE 8(J)**), by bundling

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

³ See CBD/COP/17/xx.

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related staff resources in one division with expertise in the current Biodiversity, Science, Policy and Governance (BSPG) Unit forming the core capability.

35. Make better use of synergies in support of key cross-cutting implementation functions such as capacitybuilding, NBSAPs, TSC and CH mechanisms, and monitoring, review and reporting by bundling related staff resources in one division, with expertise in the current Capacity Building (CB) and Knowledge Management (KM) Units, ~~and~~ the Monitoring Review and National Reporting Unit (MRNR) **AND THE PEOPLE AND BIODIVERSITY (PBU) UNIT.**

Strategic Partnerships, Financing, and Economy Division

36. Provide a stronger strategic focus on engaging a broad range of actors, mainstreaming biodiversity across economic sectors and levels of governance, and supporting resource mobilization, by combining Secretariat support related to the following areas in one division:

(a) Support to the engagement of major groups and stakeholder

(b) Cooperation with other UN actors

~~(c) Support related to Article 8(j)~~

(d) Support to Resource Mobilization (including Cali Fund and Financial Mechanism)

(e) Communications and Awareness-Raising (f) Corporate Knowledge Management

37. This would require bundling resources currently distributed across various units with expertise in the Biodiversity, Economy Transformation and Innovation (BETI) Unit, **AND** the Stakeholder Engagement and Cooperation (SEC) ~~and the People and Biodiversity (PBU) Unit~~ forming its core capability into three units within this division