

Sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body Implementation

16–19 February 2026
Rome, Italy

AGENDA ITEM 7: COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

DATE: 15 FEBRUARY, 2026

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

The IIFB acknowledges the efforts undertaken by the Secretariat, Parties, and partners to the conventions to strengthen cooperation and synergies in support of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). We recognize the progress reflected in decision 16/35 and the growing number of decisions and resolutions across conventions that reference the Framework. At the same time, we underline that significant gaps remain, particularly regarding the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and their full and effective participation.

The IIFB calls upon Parties to take a clear and explicit decision under this agenda item to ensure that, where implementation concerns Indigenous Peoples and local communities, the measures, actions, and decisions adopted under different conventions are coordinated, aligned and implemented in an integrated manner. For Indigenous Peoples and local communities, biodiversity, climate, land, water and culture are inseparable; the artificial division created by sectoral or institutional mandates contradicts indigenous worldviews grounded in the interdependence of all living systems.

In this context, cooperation must move beyond symbolic collaboration toward functional synergy. These processes must be designed with and by Indigenous Peoples and local communities and implemented in ways that are meaningful and effective at the territorial level, drawing upon Indigenous and traditional knowledge systems.

We emphasize the need to strengthen the implementation of the Joint Programme of Work on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity (JPoW) led by UNESCO and the CBD Secretariat, as a key operational framework to advance integrated approaches across conventions. The JPoW provides a concrete entry point to address the interlinkages between biological and cultural diversity in indigenous and traditional territories and to ensure that indigenous and traditional knowledge is fully recognized and applied in implementation processes.

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We recall that all cooperation and synergy efforts must be guided by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and by a human rights-based approach, as reflected in section C of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The IIFB stresses that this work must be advanced through the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (SB8j), to enhance coherence, consistency and the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities across conventions. Such a mechanism would facilitate coordinated engagement, shared advocacy and aligned strategies.

Effective coordination must also be accompanied by direct, predictable and equitable access to funding for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. In addition, the importance of strengthening regional and territorial relevance in cooperation efforts. Decentralized and regional coordination mechanisms, grounded in indigenous languages, indigenous and traditional knowledge, governance systems and territorial realities, are essential to ensure that global decisions translate into meaningful action on the ground.

Indigenous and traditional territories continue to demonstrate tangible results for biodiversity conservation, climate resilience and sustainable management. However, these outcomes depend on the recognition of indigenous rights and contributions, and on stronger links between global decision-making and territorial governance. Wider society has much to learn from indigenous and traditional governance systems, particularly as top-down conservation approaches have failed to halt biodiversity loss, even where numerical targets were achieved.

Finally, the IIFB stresses the importance of Indigenous Peoples and local communities speaking collectively and cohesively across all conventions. The Rio Conventions, international human rights frameworks and other instruments within the United Nations system remain key spaces for reinforcing our rights.

The new text suggestions to the document CBD/SBI/6/7 are in **GREEN CAPITALS**.

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V. Recommendation

1. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation may wish to consider adopting a recommendation¹ along the following lines:

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation

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

The Conference of the Parties,

10. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To further strengthen collaboration and cooperation with the secretariats of the other Rio conventions, biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, **SUCH AS THE MINAMATA AND STOCKHOLM CONVENTIONS** and other relevant organizations in supporting the complementarity of efforts and catalysing collective action for addressing specific gaps in the implementation of the Framework and those targets for which progress has been slow, without prejudice to the specific objectives and mandates of the various conventions and agreements and while observing their independent and autonomous nature;

(e) To report to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation **AND THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON ARTICLE 8(J) AND RELATED PROVISIONS**, at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on progress made with the activities listed in the present paragraph.

(F) TO ORGANIZE IN COLLABORATION WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP OF THE RIO CONVENTIONS, CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES ON TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE THREE CONVENTIONS TO PROMOTE SINERGIES WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE MANDATES;

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