

Sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body Implementation

16–19 February 2026

Rome, Italy

AGENDA ITEM 13: Closure of the Meeting

DATE: 19 FEBRUARY 2026

Statement on behalf of the **International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB)** delivered by **Ramson Karmushu**

Madam Chair, thank you for this opportunity. The IIFB thanks the Parties for the advancement regarding Indigenous Peoples and local communities during SBI6. To adjust to the new work methods introduced at this session, the IIFB needed an extensive preparatory process. However, we were able to submit statements on all the SBI 6 agenda items in advance, as per the pilot.

However, this process has been confusing. Participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities at these meetings cannot be reduced in the name of process efficiency. The IIFB has always endeavoured to be disciplined, constructive and streamlined in our contributions. Improved systems that allow for better discussion and deliberation are welcome, but not at the expense of an inclusive approach. Moving forward, the IIFB would appreciate ensuring the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities at the SBI-7, across all agenda items.

On Resource Mobilization, the IIFB looks forward to participating fully and effectively in the peer review of the 3 studies.

The IIFB commends the comprehensive approach of the recommendations on financial mechanisms, particularly the inclusion of the active contribution and participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, and youth in the seventh quadrennial review of the effectiveness, its emphasis on a whole-of-government, whole-of-society, and human rights-based approach, and on improving access to and increasing financial resources for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The recognition of the high value of evidence, including potential and gender-differentiated impacts on our rights, regarding projects funded through financial mechanisms such as the GEF-Trust Fund and the GBFF. The IIFB strongly calls for special efforts to

Sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body Implementation

16–19 February 2026
Rome, Italy

systematically collect and meaningfully consider the views of Indigenous Peoples and local communities on the possible impacts of financial mechanisms, ensuring that these respect, protect and fulfil human rights and provide equitable, direct access to resources.

Capacity building and development for Indigenous Peoples and local communities is a crucial element of the KMGBF package and is essential in addressing the gaps identified in NBSAPs and national reports.

The IIFB calls for greater action and effort to implement the Gender Plan of Action. Especially to support initiatives of women from Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The IIFB welcomes the decisions on Specialized international access and benefit-sharing instruments in the context of Article 4, paragraph 4, of the Nagoya Protocol, particularly Annex II that proposes the establishment of an entity, with the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, to have open and inclusive input into the development of options.

Regarding the functional review of the Secretariat, we appreciate the reframing of the draft decision to state that the recommendations remain under review. The IIFB calls for channels to be made available for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to provide views and suggestions.

We are concerned by the replacement of “Indigenous Peoples and local communities” in the texts under various agenda items with the term “stakeholders”. We reiterate that we are rights holders and not just stakeholders. Use of terminology in recommendations and decisions must be consistent, so we propose using “Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and relevant stakeholders”, which is in line with the Convention and its Protocols.

The IIFB looks forward to continuing the work undertaken at SBI 6 and looks forward to full and effective participation in SBI 7. We also request adequate and appropriate opportunities to share our views at future CBD meetings. Thank you, and see you all in Nairobi.

Thank you, Madam Chair.