

AGENDA ITEM 14: Administrative and budgetary matters

DATE: 3 August 2026

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

Thank you, Chair.

We thank the Secretariat for the documents under this agenda item. While we acknowledge that this item is normally reserved for consideration by the Parties, we would like to express our views regarding the functional review of the Secretariat and the resulting organizational updates.

We recall that Article 8(j) is the main provision of the Convention regarding Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Article 8(j) specifically refers to the relevance of traditional knowledge for in-situ conservation, and subsequent COP decisions, including the KMGBF, have recognized the co-equal status of traditional knowledge and scientific knowledge as the basis of decision-making on biodiversity. Therefore, in this spirit, we wish to better understand the recent relocation of the Peoples and Biodiversity Unit to the Engagement and Cooperation Unit under the Economic and Societal Transformation Division, rather than maintained under the Science, Monitoring and Capacity Division.

We kindly request clarification from the Executive Secretary regarding how the Peoples and Biodiversity Unit can maintain its focus on traditional knowledge alongside the Science division. Strengthening this connection is essential to uphold the Convention's commitments and to ensure traditional knowledge continues to enrich and guide our collective work.

Thank you Chair.