

AGENDA ITEM 4(b): Financial Mechanism

DATE: 3 August 2026

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

Thank you, Madam Chair.

I make this statement on behalf of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB).

Regarding the financial mechanism, while we welcome the renewed commitment of those that have made pledges for the ninth replenishment, we are concerned at the reduction from \$5.2B to \$3.9B between the 8th and 9th replenishments. We urge Parties to increase their pledges.

The IIFB welcomes the aim that at least 20% of all resources for the period, portfolio-wide, is committed for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, while noting that guidance on what counts toward this target needs to be clear. We urge the GEF to build on the GBFF guidance for what constitutes actions led by Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The guidance must prioritize projects designed and implemented by Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

We welcome the allocation of \$100M for the Indigenous Conservation Initiative at the GEF 9, and urge the GEF to incorporate lessons learned from the GEF-7 Inclusive Conservation Initiative and GEF-8 Heart of Conservation Initiative in the implementation of this new Initiative. Serious actions must be undertaken to remove barriers to direct access by Indigenous Peoples and local communities to biodiversity finance.

Finally, we welcome the terms of reference for the seventh quadriennial review of the financial mechanism and the opportunity for inputs by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, especially in view of our experiences under ICI and HCI. We look forward to contributing to the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities under the terms of reference in Annex III, through the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group of the GEF.

Thank you, Chair.

The IIFB suggested text is in **GREEN CAPITALS**.

ANNEX

VII. Recommendation

- The Subsidiary Body may wish to adopt a recommendation along the following lines:

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation

Recommends that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt elements of a decision along the following lines:¹

The Conference of the Parties

1. *Notes with appreciation* the pledges made, as at 30 May 2026, for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund by participant countries, namely, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Norway, Slovenia, South Africa and Switzerland, which amounted to approximately 3.9 billion United States dollars, using the agreed reference exchange rates for the replenishment period;

2. *Urges* developed country Parties and other Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country Parties to further enhance their existing pledges for the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and, if they have not yet done so, make timely and adequate pledges, in support of the full implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;²

3. *Welcomes* the inclusion in the programming directions and policy recommendations of the Global Environment Facility for the ninth replenishment period the indigenous peoples and local communities conservation initiative, building on previous iterations of the inclusive conservation initiative at an expanded level of 100 million dollars, the allocation of 35 per cent of the total resources for the period to the biodiversity focal area and the aim that at least 70 per cent of funding over the period is committed to biodiversity, according to the Rio marker methodology³

¹ If adopted, the present elements will be consolidated with those in recommendation [6/2](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation into a single draft decision.

² Decision [15/4](#), annex.

³ See Global Environment Facility, "Report of the ninth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund", document GEF/A.08/04, annexes I and II.

4. *Takes note* of the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;⁴

5. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to accelerate efforts to further strengthen its effectiveness, including by:

(a) Improving integration pathways, approaches and integrated programmes that deliver system-wide environmental benefits;

(b) Enabling greater private sector investment through incentives, regulations and blended finance tools, including in capacity-building;

(c) Promoting whole-of-society, whole-of-government and whole-of-economy approaches in order to strengthen ownership at the national level and the alignment of biodiversity actions with national development priorities;

(d) Continuing to improve its system of resource allocation;

(e) Sustaining enhanced support for the least developed countries and small island developing States, including by reducing transaction costs and streamlining access procedures;

(f) Deepening inclusive support for indigenous peoples and local communities, **INCLUDING THROUGH DIRECT ACCESS TO FUNDING, BY REVIEWING AND SIMPLIFYING ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY AND DEVELOPING CLEAR GUIDANCE ON THE 20% PORTFOLIO-WIDE TARGET FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES, PRIORITIZING FUNDING TO PROJECTS DESIGNED AND IMPLEMENTED BY THEM;**

(g) Promoting country-driven and regionally coordinated regional and multi-country initiatives, including transboundary initiatives focused on both national priorities and the generation of broader environmental benefits;

6. *Takes note* of the information on the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund contained in the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

7. *Reiterates* the call made by the Council of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund at its sixth meeting for new and additional contributions from all sources to support the continuous, rapid and robust capitalization of the Fund;

8. *Urges* the Global Environment Facility to enhance efforts to mobilize resources and report on the implementation of its resource mobilization strategy for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund for the period from July 2026 to June 2030;

⁴ CBD/COP/17/5/Add.1.

9. *Urges* the secretariat of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and relevant agencies to improve co-financing arrangements and expedite the endorsement process for approved projects under the Fund;

10. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary, to consider supporting the following:

(a) Relevant national platforms for biodiversity project planning along with its engagement strategy at the country level;

(b) The preparation and submission of national reports on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity,⁵ the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety⁶ and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization;⁷

(c) Capacity-building for leveraging private sector financing, including from capital markets;

11. *Decides* to undertake preparatory work for its stocktake review of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, referred to in paragraph 29 of decision [15/15](#) of 19 December 2022, in conjunction with its seventh quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure that the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties is taken into account in the seventh quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism;

13. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a draft four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities related to the use of Global Environment Facility resources for biodiversity for the period from July 2030 to June 2034 for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and subsequent adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting, in line with the terms of reference provided in annex III to the present decision.

Annex II⁸

Terms of reference for the seventh quadrennial review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism

4 (n bis) The stocktake review of the operations and performance of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund regarding its scale, speed, accessibility, and future arrangements requested in decision [15/15](#) of 19 December 2022;

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

⁸ Annexes I and II are provided in recommendation [6/2](#) of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. The two paragraphs in the present annex II are proposed for inclusion in the draft annex II to recommendation [6/2](#).

10 bis. The report shall include as an annex the stocktake review referred to in decision [15/15](#).

Annex III

Terms of reference for preparing a four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities related to the use of Global Environment Facility resources for biodiversity for the period from July 2030 to June 2034

I. Background and rationale

1. According to Article 21 of the Convention on Biological Diversity,⁹ the Conference of the Parties is to determine the policy, strategy, programme priorities and eligibility criteria relating to the access to and utilization of financial resources available through the financial mechanism, including the monitoring and evaluation on a regular basis of such utilization. The Global Environment Facility, in operating the financial mechanism under the Convention, is to finance activities that are in full conformity with the guidance provided to it by the Conference of the Parties and is to communicate all relevant information to the Conference of the Parties.
2. In anticipation of the programming and policy directions for the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, the Conference of the Parties, in decision [16/33](#), adopted a four-year outcome-oriented framework of biodiversity programme priorities, with a view to guiding the programming and use of biodiversity-related funding of the Facility, ensuring alignment with updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans and enhancing strategic coherence, global environmental benefits, measurable impact and efficient resource allocation.

II. Purpose

3. The present terms of reference shall guide the development of a four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities that defines strategic priorities, expected outcomes, indicators and resource allocation modalities for biodiversity financing by the Global Environment Facility from July 2030 to June 2034, enabling countries and implementing entities to achieve measurable progress towards the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols, as well as the 2050 goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.¹⁰
4. The four-year framework shall promote the rapid implementation of any successor to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and, as relevant and appropriate, to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹¹ and related global strategy documents over the tenth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (July 2030–June 2034).

⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁰ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

¹¹ General Assembly resolution [70/1](#).

III. Scope

5. The framework shall apply to all Global Environment Facility biodiversity programming for the period from July 2030 to July 2034, including full- and medium-sized projects, enabling activities and integrated programmes with biodiversity components.
6. The framework shall be aimed at guiding funding allocation directions at the global, regional and national levels, while respecting the country-driven nature of programming by the Global Environment Facility for all eligible country Parties to the Convention and its Protocols, taking into account potential co-financing and leveraged resources.
7. The framework shall not predetermine project designs but shall provide strategic direction through agreed priority outcomes and indicative intervention areas.

IV. Methodology

8. The following sources shall be considered in the development of the four-year framework:
 - (a) Existing guidance provided to the Global Environment Facility by the Conference of the Parties, as consolidated periodically;
 - (b) The findings and conclusions of the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
 - (c) Pertinent assessments conducted under the two Protocols, including the outcomes of the fifth assessment and review of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety¹² and the midterm evaluation of the implementation plan¹³ and the capacity-building action plan¹⁴ for the Protocol;
 - (d) Relevant elements of strategic advice adopted by the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions, as communicated by their respective secretariats;
 - (e) National funding priorities that align with agreed global priorities and that have been developed on the basis of implementation experience and progress made, as communicated by eligible countries;

(e bis) PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK, INCLUDING PRIORITIES RELATING TO DIRECT ACCESS TO BIODIVERSITY FINANCE.

¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

¹³ Decision [CP-10/3](#), annex.

¹⁴ Decision [CP-10/4](#), annex.

(f) Any other relevant information and analysis, such as past resource programming practices and funding needs assessments of the Global Environment Facility.

V. Implementation

9. The Executive Secretary shall prepare a draft four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities related to the utilization of Global Environment Facility resources for biodiversity for the period from July 2030 to June 2034, in consultation and collaboration with the secretariats of relevant conventions and the Global Environment Facility, including its agencies, **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ADVISORY GROUP** and Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel.

10. The Executive Secretary shall circulate the draft framework for peer review before its consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting.