

AGENDA ITEM 6: Fifth assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and midterm evaluation of the implementation plan and the capacity-building action plan for the Protocol

DATE: 3 August 2026

Statement on behalf of **the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB)**, delivered by **Onel Masardule**

Thank you, Chair. I am speaking on behalf of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB).

The full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol is essential to ensure that decisions on living modified organisms incorporate not only scientific and technical criteria, but also indigenous knowledge, as well as socio-economic, cultural and territorial considerations. Such participation strengthens the transparency, legitimacy and relevance of biosafety policies, particularly in cases where the potential effects of living modified organisms may impact the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, livelihoods, indigenous food systems and the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

We welcome the recommendations set out in the document on the Fifth Assessment and Review of the Effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the mid-term review of the implementation plan and the action plan for capacity-building under the Protocol.

Finally, we call on the Parties to support the recommendations relating to Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Thank you, Chair.