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Panel Presentation

Customary sustainable use: report of the outcomes/conclusions from WG8J-8

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The 8th meeting of Working Group 8j and Related Provisions of the CBD completed its meeting last week and adopted the *Plan of Action on Customary Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity*, which will be recommended for the COP 12 for endorsement.

The objective of this plan of action is to promote a just implementation of Article 10(c) on customary sustainable use at local, national, regional and international levels, while ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all stages and levels of its implementation.

The Plan of Actions suggest among other things some roles for the National Focal Point for 8(j) and related provisions and incorporation of customary sustainable use practices or policies into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) when these are revised.

An element of the Plan of Action is to promote and strengthen community-based initiatives that support and contribute to the implementation of Article 10(c) on Customary Sustainable Use. The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) expressed at the closure of the meeting last week that its members stay fully committed to carrying out the elements of the first phase of this plan in good collaboration and partnership with Parties and others.

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Task three of the Plan of Action asks for the identification of best practices mainly around initiatives related to management and governance of protected areas. Actions for these are expected to be implemented by actors at all levels.

In light of Goal B of the Strategic Plan, I believe that the implementation of the Plan of Action on Customary Sustainable Use with its various elements will contribute both to reduction of the direct pressures on biodiversity and not least promote the sustainable use of biological diversity, by providing ways to integrate customary practices that support sustainable natural resource management into biodiversity management strategies at all levels

Many of the proposed actions under the plan are designed to be very straightforward for the Parties to start implementing actions right away. The implementation can make a considerable contribution to global discussions concerning the post 2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals, as well as poverty alleviations. The implementation will also contribute to the achievement of the Strategic plan 2011-2020 and its target 18, which I encourage all of you to study carefully.

The IIFB reported to be very pleased with the good progress made last week in agreeing on the elements of the first phase of the draft action plan on customary sustainable use of biodiversity. The representatives of Indigenous and local communities will stay tuned to being informed on the progress on this issue in the forthcoming national reports and on the TK information portal.

The WG8(j) in-session documents from last week are linked to the SBSTTA meeting web page, and Plan of Action document as a whole can be found as L.3 paper there. (Item 4(a) UNEP/CBD/WG8J/8/L.3 *Article 10, With a Focus on Article 10(c), As Major Component of the Programme of Work on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention*).