

International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) 8

SBSTTA 17- Strategic Goal C

Thank you Madam Chair and distinguished panelists,

This statement is made on behalf of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), a network of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Biodiversity conservation in our territories is a common practice for us since time immemorial through our traditional and customary practices, rituals and cultures.

Target 11 is important to us and we emphasize the fact that this target can only be achieved when these areas are effectively and equitably managed. This calls for the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in the management and decision-making of protected areas.

Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) is one example of local community based protection of some parts of indigenous territories, but this is not the only option. Indigenous Peoples and local communities are custodians of our lands, territories, and resources and need to be included in all levels of governance and management.

We remind Parties and other Governments that protected areas need to be done with the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. FPIC is vital in the establishment of any new protected areas and any expansion of existing protected areas should not violate the rights of Indigenous Peoples. There are many ongoing cases of conflict that include violation of rights such as the restricted use or access to our territories and the relocation of peoples. FPIC is one of the solutions to avoiding such conflict.

Referring to target 13, it is now evident that much of the genetic diversity is held and maintained within farming systems, particularly in small-scale farming and by indigenous peoples and local communities. Maintaining, respecting, and strengthening the local and traditional knowledge associated with genetic diversity is therefore important to maintain the diversity and, in particular, to enable the diversity to evolve and adapt as farming systems evolve.

In summary, the IIFB strongly feels that achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, especially under Strategic Goal C are possible only with the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and their Free Prior and Informed Consent.

Thank you Madam Chair.