



Ref: SCBD/SEL/OJ/RR/43986

15 June 2004

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Notification: Decision VII/16 on Article 8(j) and related provisions:
establishment of advisory group/steering committee**

In decision VII/16 E, the Conference of the Parties decided to undertake further activities to complete phase one of the composite report by the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions. The Conference of the Parties further requested the Executive Secretary *“to continue work on phase one of the composite report in order to produce a revised version of it, in consultation with and with input from Parties, Governments, relevant organizations, all relevant stakeholders as appropriate, and from indigenous and local communities through the national focal points in consultation with and after approval of indigenous and local communities”*. Such work is to include regional workshops, the gathering of additional information, as well as preparation of a report on the Arctic region. Parties and governments are invited to refer to Secretariat notification 2004-039, dated 12 May 2004, for more details on this work, as well as specific action required from Parties to implement this decision.

In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary *“to create an advisory group/steering committee in which indigenous and local communities will be represented to assist in the completion of the report and undertake a peer review of the revised version, in consultation with indigenous peoples and local community organizations that have participated in the work on the Convention.”*

The Secretariat wishes to establish the advisory group/steering committee as soon as possible so as to have the benefit of its guidance over the coming months as the work on the composite report progresses. While the activities of the advisory group/steering committee will be dependent on the availability of funds, the group could operate initially through electronic means.

To: National focal points

c.c.: Indigenous and local communities and international organizations



In light of the above, Parties and governments are invited to nominate experts, including experts from indigenous and local communities, for the advisory group/steering committee **as soon as possible but no later than 31 August 2004**. The Executive Secretary will select members of the advisory group/steering committee from among the nominations received on the basis of expertise, gender balance and equitable geographic distribution, taking into account the nature of the mandate of the group.

Parties and Governments are also reminded of the need for financial support for the work of the advisory group/steering committee to assist in the completion of the composite report, as mentioned in the Secretariat's Notification dated 12 May 2004.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support of the work of the Convention.

Accept, Madam/Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary