

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

COMMUNIQUÉ

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Biodiversity and Climate Change

CONVENTION CONVENES THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON ARTICLE 8(j) - TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICES

Montreal, 14 October 2007:

The fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions will be held from 15 to 19 October 2007 at the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal. The Conference of the Parties established the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group specifically to address the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was adopted at its fifth meeting, held in Nairobi in 2000.

Article 8(j) of the Convention states that each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate:

“Subject to its national legislation respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and promote their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices.”

At this meeting, the Working Group will consider progress with regard to some of the priority issues in the programme of work, including: the development of an action plan for the retention of traditional knowledge; the provision of inputs regarding the traditional-knowledge-related elements of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing; the preparation of an ethical code of conduct to ensure respect for the cultural and intellectual heritage of indigenous and local communities; the advancement of *sui generis systems* for the protection of traditional knowledge; and the development of indicators to assess the state of traditional knowledge. The Working Group is also expected to consider the findings of some initial research on indigenous and local communities that are highly vulnerable to climate change and the important role of traditional knowledge in the global efforts to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss.

The Working Group is open to all Parties, and indigenous and local community representatives play a full and active role in its work. Traditional knowledge is considered a “cross-cutting” issue that affects many aspects of biological diversity and is an ongoing issue of importance under the Convention.

For further information please visit: <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/wg8j-05/about.shtml>