



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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**Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions  
of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to  
Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities  
First meeting  
Panama City, 27–30 October 2025  
Item 7 of the provisional agenda\*  
Recommendations of the Permanent Forum  
on Indigenous Issues**

### **Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

**Note by the Secretariat**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. In line with the practice of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention, which it replaces, the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities will regularly consider recommendations emanating from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues that are of relevance to the Convention and subsequently propose recommendations for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties. Consequently, the recommendations of relevance to the Convention adopted by the Permanent Forum at its twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions are discussed in section II below.

#### **II. Recent recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues of relevance to the Convention**

2. Over the period 2024–2025, the Permanent Forum adopted a series of recommendations of relevance to the implementation of the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as summarized below. Where applicable, reference is made to related developments and planned activities under the Convention that respond to or are linked those recommendations.

##### **A. Recommendations emanating from the twenty-third session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

3. At its twenty-third session, in 2024, the Permanent Forum adopted several recommendations relevant to the Convention, as outlined in paragraphs 49, 53, 80, 119, 120, 126 and 135 of the report on its twenty-third session.<sup>1</sup>

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\* [CBD/SB8J/1/1/Rev.1](#).

<sup>1</sup> [E/2024/43-E/C.19/2024/8](#).

4. Paragraphs 49, 53, 80 and 126 of the report of the Permanent Forum focus on enhancing direct access to finance for indigenous peoples in biodiversity mechanisms and read as follows:

49. The Permanent Forum calls upon the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund, the new Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Readiness Fund and the locally led Adaptation Fund, among others, to establish a mechanism for enhanced direct access for indigenous peoples by limiting intermediary organizations, with flexible access and transparent criteria that correspond to the needs of indigenous peoples.

53. The Permanent Forum is concerned about the harms and injustices caused in certain instances by carbon markets and biodiversity credits on indigenous peoples' lands and territories and biodiversity. The Forum urges the Secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to demand high-integrity projects that have clear accountability for carbon emissions and biodiversity as well as measured benefits for indigenous peoples. The Forum invites the aforementioned entities to report on their actions at its session in 2025.

80. The Permanent Forum highlights the importance of creating direct and accessible finance for African indigenous peoples to implement the three Rio conventions (the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa) and the Sustainable Development Goals, as specified in the study transmitted in the note by the Secretariat entitled "Financing the future: the financial needs of indigenous peoples to support their actions for biodiversity, climate and the protection of Mother Earth" (E/C.19/2024/7).

126. As rights holders to their own lands, territories and resources, indigenous knowledge is essential for sustainable development, including pertinent international processes and Conferences of the Parties, inter alia, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; to the Convention on Biological Diversity; and to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa. The Forum welcomes the study transmitted in the note by the Secretariat entitled "Financing the future: the financial needs of indigenous peoples to support their actions for biodiversity, climate and the protection of Mother Earth" (E/C.19/2024/7).

5. Under agenda item 3 of the present meeting, an in-depth dialogue will be held under the theme "Strategies for mobilizing resources to ensure the availability of and access to financial resources and funding, as well as other means of implementation, including capacity-building, development and technical support for indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth, to support the full implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework".

6. By its decision [16/4](#), the Conference of the Parties adopted a programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030. Under element 8 of the programme of work, on access, including direct access, to funding for indigenous peoples and local communities for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, the Conference of the Parties agreed on the following tasks: to support efforts for the mobilization of financial resources for indigenous peoples and local communities, in line with and within the scope of the strategy for resource mobilization for the period 2025–2030 (Task 8.1); and to identify gaps, promote good practices and further explore options for the development or improvement of existing policies, mechanisms and other appropriate initiatives and measures to enhance access, including direct access, to funding by indigenous peoples and local communities for collective actions on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, in particular for actions to be led by women and youth (Task 8.2). The in-depth dialogue mentioned above is also aimed at informing the implementation of Task 8.2.

7. By its decision [16/34](#), the Conference of the Parties adopted a strategy for resource mobilization for the period 2025–2030, in which it outlined a wide range of instruments, mechanisms and institutions that could be leveraged to mobilize the resources needed to implement the Framework. The strategy includes public finance from national and subnational governments, private and philanthropic sources, multilateral development banks, blended finance and innovative funding approaches. In its decision [16/33](#), the Conference of the Parties encouraged the Global Environment Facility to continue to explore potential opportunities for maximizing the contributions of its integrated programmes to the implementation of the Framework, including through dedicated support for indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth.

8. Paragraphs 119 and 120 of the report of the Permanent Forum focus on the terminology and safeguards of the rights of indigenous peoples, read as follows:

119. The Permanent Forum reiterates that it has urged all United Nations entities and States Parties to treaties concerning the environment, biodiversity and climate change to eliminate the use of the term “local communities” in conjunction with indigenous peoples, and to distinguish between the terms, in ongoing processes, policies and new international agreements at all levels.

120. The Permanent Forum encourages parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to ensure that progress is made with regard to institutional arrangements that guarantee human rights-based approaches to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples. In addition, the Forum calls upon the Conference of Parties to request its relevant subsidiary bodies to convene an ad hoc expert group meeting, with the participation of experts of the three United Nations mechanisms on indigenous peoples, to address the conflation of indigenous peoples with other groups of society and to develop specific actions to avoid such conflation.

9. In its decision [XII/12](#), the Conference of the Parties decided to use the terminology “indigenous peoples and local communities” in future decisions and secondary documents under the Convention, without affecting in any way the legal meaning of Article 8(j) and related provisions. By its decision [14/13](#), it adopted the Voluntary Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts Within the Context of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention, in which the terminology “indigenous peoples and local communities” is used. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties emphasized that the use of the glossary was without prejudice to the terminology used in the Convention and might not be interpreted as implying for any Party a change in rights or obligations under the Convention. It is noted in the glossary that the terms “indigenous and local communities” and “indigenous peoples and local communities” are not defined in the Convention and that no universal definition of “indigenous peoples” was adopted in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

10. Under Task 5.4 of the programme of work on Article 8(j), the glossary is to be reviewed and updated, as needed, in the light of the adoption of Framework. As a result, the Subsidiary Body is to consider a process to review and update the glossary under agenda item 5(c) of the present meeting.

11. Paragraph 135 of the report of the Permanent Forum focuses on strengthening legal frameworks of indigenous peoples’ rights to lands and territories and reads as follows:

135. The Permanent Forum recommends that Member States strengthen and implement legal and institutional frameworks that recognize and protect the rights of indigenous peoples to their lands, territories and resources and ensure their participation in decision-making processes. Such frameworks should adhere to the Declaration and Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) of the International Labour Organization, ensuring indigenous peoples’ free, prior and informed consent when development, environment, biodiversity and climate change programmes and projects are conducted on their lands and territories.

12. Element 1 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) concerns the conservation and restoration of biodiversity. Under Task 1.1, guidelines are to be developed to strengthen the legal and policy frameworks for the implementation of Targets 2 and 3 of the Framework, including on indigenous and traditional territories. Under Task 1.2, guidelines are also to be developed for the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and of resource use in spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments. As a result, the Subsidiary Body is to consider draft guidelines in relation to the two tasks under agenda subitems 5 (a) and (b) of the present meeting.

**B. Recommendations emanating from the twenty-fourth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

13. At its twenty-fourth session, in 2025, the Permanent Forum adopted some recommendations relevant to the Convention, as outlined in paragraphs 20 and 78 of the report on its twenty-fourth session.<sup>2</sup>

14. Paragraphs 20 and 78 of the report on the twenty-fourth session of the Permanent Forum focus on participatory mechanisms for indigenous peoples in the Subsidiary Body, acknowledgement of the Global Plan of Action on Biodiversity and Health, and read as follows:

20. The Permanent Forum welcomes the establishment of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8 (j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (decision 16/5) and the adoption of the new programme of work related thereto (decision 16/4) at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It urges the operationalization of the decision on the continued prioritization of indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge in implementing the Convention and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Forum also acknowledges that the Global Plan of Action on Biodiversity and Health (decision 16/19) draws on the study on the indigenous determinants of health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (E/C.19/2023/5).

78. The Permanent Forum urges Member States, and the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat's permanent subsidiary body on article 8 (j), in its new work programme, to include indigenous peoples' leadership at all levels, including as co-chairs, working group leads, expert groups and Bureau members from the seven sociocultural regions. The Forum reiterates its call upon United Nations entities and the Parties to biodiversity and climate agreements to recognize the distinct identities and specific rights of indigenous peoples. The Forum encourages the use of accurate and differentiated terminology and recommends avoiding the combined or interchangeable use of the terms "indigenous peoples" and "local communities" as a single category.

15. In its decision [16/5](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) to further elaborate and finalize its modus operandi at the present meeting, for consideration at the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties with a view to its adoption. Discussions on this topic, which are to be held under agenda item 4, are expected to contribute to and provide inputs for the implementation of Task 6.1 of the programme of work, which is to implement and further develop the enhanced participation mechanisms used by the Working Group.

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<sup>2</sup> [E/2025/43-E/C.19/2025/8](#).

### III. Recommendations

16. The Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) may wish to recommend that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Having considered* the note by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>1</sup> on the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues,<sup>2</sup>

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations emanating from the twenty-third and twenty-fourth sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention to continue to inform the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues of developments of mutual interest and to provide information to the Forum about activities undertaken under the Convention that are related to the aforementioned recommendations of the Forum.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>2</sup> CBD/SB8J/1/7.