



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

Agenda item 9

Adoption of the report

Draft report of the meeting

Introduction

1. The first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities was held in Panama City from 27 to 30 October 2025. The meeting was attended by [--] Parties and [--] non-Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.¹

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

2. The meeting was opened at 10.15 a.m. on 27 October 2025 by the President of the Conference of the Parties, the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, Irene Vélez Torres.

3. The meeting began with a traditional indigenous blessing offered by Briseida Iglesias of the Guna peoples, who urged participants to move forward in defending the heritage conferred by the Creator and Mother Earth, guided by the Great Creator of knowledge and strength. The Uskalu Group then performed a traditional Guna dance entitled Mugan Boe (grandmothers' lament), a tribute to the wisdom and strength of the grandmothers who continued to inspire and sustain their communities.

4. Delivering her opening remarks, the President said that the establishment of the Subsidiary Body represented an unprecedented step toward greater environmental democracy within the United Nations, the Convention on Biological Diversity being the first of the more than 500 multilateral treaties and conventions to guarantee the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in a subsidiary body. The most challenging task was now to finalize the draft *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting and to ensure good environmental governance. At its sixteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties had adopted a new work programme to integrate the rights, contributions and traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities into the global biodiversity agenda. The guidelines to be discussed as part of the meeting agenda were critical to the implementation of Targets 2 and 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and should support protection and restoration

¹ See CBD/SB8J/1/INF/1 for the list of participants.

practices led by indigenous peoples and local communities worldwide. She noted that clear guidelines would help to ensure due consideration of traditional lands and resource use by indigenous peoples and local communities in spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments. Acknowledging that the discussions would be intense, she invited delegates to bear in mind the fundamental purpose of the meeting, which was to strengthen the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention and to demonstrate to the world that the Subsidiary Body could be a pioneering example of how to move multilateralism towards a deeper, more far-reaching, more rooted and more effective democracy.

5. Opening statements² were made by the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Convention, Astrid Schomaker, and the Minister of Environment of Panama, Juan Carlos Navarro.

6. The Executive Secretary began by expressing her solidarity with the people of Haiti and Jamaica, who were being affected by Hurricane Melissa. She thanked Ms. Iglesias for her blessing and the Uskalu Group for their dance, the Presidency of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for its leadership and the Government of Panama for its hospitality in hosting the meeting. She acknowledged the contributions of the donor countries that had enabled the participation of delegates from developing countries and applauded the efforts of the indigenous peoples and local communities to raise the funds needed for their participation, while calling upon donors, including new donors, to step forward to support those efforts. Underscoring the watershed moment that the present meeting marked for the Convention, she acknowledged the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which had enabled the establishment of the Subsidiary Body. Noting that the present meeting would measure the potential for the success of the endeavour, she outlined the matters on the agenda for the meeting, highlighting the need to advance three tasks in the new programme of work adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting. Emphasizing the importance of the task ahead, she urged delegates to seize what she characterized as a historic moment to translate Article 8(j) and related provisions into an effective elevation of the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work undertaken under the Convention, and to devise clear and actionable recommendations for the Conference of the Parties that would accelerate the implementation of the Framework.

7. The Minister of Environment of Panama welcomed participants to the ancestral lands and waters of the indigenous peoples of Panama, guardians of the thousand-year cultures and ecosystems that connected the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The Guna word *Muu Bi-li*, meaning “Grandmother Ocean”, was a reminder that all forms of life were interconnected, providing a vision that should guide Parties’ decisions at the present meeting. The traditional knowledge and governance practices of indigenous peoples and local communities would be incorporated into the Parties’ work under the Convention for the first time, as the world had finally understood that there was no conservation without rights, and no sustainability without justice. In his view, the Subsidiary Body should serve to pay down a historic debt and ensure that those who had always protected nature be recognized as full partners in decision-making on the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. It should become a forum for real synergy between modern science and ancestral knowledge, between national and local governments, and between global conventions and the generations that would inherit the planet. To achieve real actions on the ground, Parties would need to work together and reach broad consensus and translate Article 8(j) of the Convention from a theoretical commitment into real policies, accessible funding and visible results to conserve biodiversity. Success would be measured not by the recommendations but by what actually happened on the ground in terms of strengthened communities and restored, conserved and protected ecosystems. He called for a change in how the Parties worked, through a shift from isolation to integration. Drawing attention to the creation of the Panama Natural Fund as an ongoing trust fund for permanent funding for actions to conserve biodiversity over time and the Panama Nature Pledge

² Statements made during the meeting and submitted in writing by participants are available at cbd.int/meetings/SB8J-01.

aimed at combining its negotiating efforts under the conventions on biodiversity, desertification, oceans and plastics, he urged others to take the same approach in their countries.

Item 2

Organizational matters

Election of officers

8. In accordance with decision [16/5](#) of the Conference of the Parties, the consolidated modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the established procedures and practices of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention applied mutatis mutandis to the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. In accordance with rule 26.5 of the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties served as the Bureau for the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body.

9. At the 1st plenary session, on 27 October, it was agreed that Jonas Komi Anthé (Togo) would act as Rapporteur of the meeting.

10. The Rapporteur made a statement of thanks on behalf of all participants.

11. In keeping with the past practice of the Working Group, representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities were invited to designate seven friends of the Bureau to participate in Bureau meetings and act as co-chairs of possible contact groups. The following representatives of the seven regional groups recognized by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues were designated as friends of the Bureau:

Africa	Lucy Mulenkei (Indigenous Information Network)
Arctic	Gunn-Britt Retter (Sami Council – Norway)
Asia	Jennifer Corpuz (Gawis Indigenous Rights)
Central and South America and the Caribbean	Francisco Ramiro Batzin Chojoj (International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity)
Eastern Europe, Russian Federation, Central Asia and Transcaucasia	Aleksei Tsykarev (Center for Support of Indigenous Peoples and Public Diplomacy “Young Karelia”)
North America	Rochelle Diver (International Indian Treaty Council)
Pacific	Christine Teresa Grant (Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation)

12. It was also agreed that Ms. Retter would serve as the indigenous Co-Chair of the Subsidiary Body.³

13. Offering brief remarks, the indigenous Co-Chair underscored the historic nature of the creation of the Subsidiary Body and of the present meeting, which marked an important step in elevating the issues of indigenous peoples and local communities within the Convention processes and ensuring their stronger participation in and contribution to the implementation of the Framework. She offered

³ The indigenous Co-Chair chaired the discussions under items 3, 5 (a) and (b) and 7. The discussions under the remaining items were chaired by the President of the Conference of the Parties or her representative, Daniela Durán González.

the words of the Sámi poet Nils-Aslak Valkeapää, “the land is different when you have lived there, wandered, sweated, frozen, seen the sun set, rise, disappear, return; the land is different when you know here are roots, ancestors”, for delegates to keep in mind as they considered the various matters on the agenda for the meeting.

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

14. At its 1st plenary session, the Subsidiary Body adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat:⁴

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters.
3. In-depth dialogue: “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”.
4. Modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.
5. Implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030:
 - (a) Guidelines to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the implementation of Targets 2 and 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including on indigenous and traditional territories, to support the protection and restoration practices led by indigenous peoples and local communities (Task 1.1);
 - (b) Guidelines for the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and of resource use in spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments (Task 1.2);
 - (c) Process to review and update the Voluntary Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts Within the Context of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention (Task 5.4).
6. Provision of advice on traditional knowledge for the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
7. Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report.
10. Closure of the meeting.

15. At the same session, the Subsidiary Body approved the proposed organization of work set out in annex I to the provisional annotated agenda,⁵ including the Co-Chair’s proposal to continue the practice, introduced at the twelfth meeting of the Working Group, of allowing the caucus of indigenous peoples and local communities to speak before the Parties on each agenda item.

16. A statement was made by a representative of the Russian Federation.

⁴ [CBD/SB8J/1/1/Rev.1](#).

⁵ [CBD/SB8J/1/1/Add.1](#).

Item 3

In-depth dialogue: “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”

17. The Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 3 at its 1st plenary session. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the in-depth dialogue entitled “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”, which contained a draft recommendation.⁶

18. Panel presentations were made by Jurgis Sapjanskas (Global Environment Facility), Terence Hay-Edie (United Nations Development Programme), Darío Mejía Montalvo Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean), Anita Tzec (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and Mariam Wallet Aboubakrine (Association Tinhinan Canada).

19. A statement was made by a representative of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.

20. Statements were also made by the representatives of the following Parties: Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union and its 27 member States), Democratic Republic of the Congo (on behalf of the African States), Djibouti, Egypt, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Malawi, Malaysia, New Zealand, Panama, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

21. Further statements were made by representatives of the CBD Women’s Caucus and the Global Youth Biodiversity Network.

22. Following the exchange of views, the Co-Chair said that she would prepare a revised draft recommendation, in consultation with the Secretariat, taking into account the views expressed or supported by Parties. A summary of the in-depth dialogue is attached to the present report as annex [--].

23. At its 4th plenary session, on 29 October, the Subsidiary Body considered the revised draft recommendation submitted by the Co-Chair.

24. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Armenia, Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, China, Colombia, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union and its 27 member States), Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, South Africa and Switzerland.

25. At its 5th plenary session, on 29 October, the Subsidiary Body resumed its consideration of the revised draft recommendation.

26. A statement was made by a representative of Japan.

27. The Subsidiary Body approved the revised draft recommendation, as orally amended, as draft recommendation CBD/SB8J/1/L.2.

28. *[to be completed]*

⁶ [CBD/SB8J/1/2](#).

Item 4**Modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**

29. The Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 4 at its 2nd plenary session, on 27 October. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body, which contained a draft recommendation.⁷ The following information documents had also been issued in relation to item 4: the proposed version of the modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body contained in document CBD/COP/16/L.6⁸ and a compilation of views and information on the modus operandi.⁹

30. A statement was made by a representative of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.

31. Statements were also made by representatives of the following Parties: Armenia, Australia, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union and its 27 member States), Fiji, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Malawi, Malaysia, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, South Africa (on behalf of the African States) and Togo.

32. Further statements were made by representatives of the CBD Women's Caucus, Red de Mujeres Indígenas sobre Biodiversidad para América Latina y el Caribe (also on behalf of the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

33. Following the exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Pernilla Malmer (Sweden) and Lucy Mullenkei (Indigenous Information Network), with a mandate to further develop the elements of the draft modus operandi, working on the basis of document [CBD/SB8J/1/3](#) but also taking into consideration, as appropriate, proposals for alternative text as found in the modus operandi set out in information document [CBD/SB8J/1/INF/3](#). Participation would be open to all interested Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, and observers.

34. At its 3rd plenary session, on 27 October, the Subsidiary Body heard a report by the co-chairs of the contact group on the outcome of the group's work, following which the Co-Chair of the Subsidiary Body proposed that the co-chairs of the contact group hold informal consultations with interested Parties on section IV of the proposed modus operandi, with a mandate to produce a streamlined text proposal for consideration by the Subsidiary Body.

35. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Russian Federation.

36. Following the exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body agreed to proceed with the proposal of the Co-Chair of the Subsidiary Body and also agreed that representatives of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity would be invited to participate in the consultations, to provide information as needed.

37. *[to be completed]*

Item 5**Implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030**

38. The Subsidiary Body considered sub-items 5 (a) and (b) together at its 2nd plenary session.

⁷ [CBD/SB8J/1/3](#).

⁸ [CBD/SB8J/1/INF/3](#).

⁹ [CBD/SB8J/1/INF/4](#).

- (a) **Guidelines to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the implementation of Targets 2 and 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including on indigenous and traditional territories, to support the protection and restoration practices led by indigenous peoples and local communities (Task 1.1)**

and

- (b) **Guidelines for the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and of resource use in spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments (Task 1.2)**

39. In considering the sub-items, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Secretariat on proposed elements for the guidelines related to Tasks 1.1 and 1.2 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030, which contained a draft recommendation.¹⁰ An information document had also been issued in relation to sub-items 5 (a) and (b), containing a compilation of views and information on the implementation of Tasks 1.1 and 1.2 of the programme of work.¹¹ Furthermore, a note by the Secretariat prepared for the expert workshop to support the implementation of Tasks 1.1 and 1.2 of the programme of work, which contained syntheses of views on the guidelines,¹² and the report of the expert workshop itself were available to the Subsidiary Body as reference documents.¹³

40. A statement was made by a representative of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.

41. Statements were also made by representatives of the following Parties: Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union and its 27 member States), Egypt, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malawi, Malaysia, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe (on behalf of the African States).

42. A further statement was made by the representative of Red de Mujeres Indígenas sobre Biodiversidad para América Latina y el Caribe (also on behalf of the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network).

43. Following the exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body agreed to establish a contact group, co-chaired by Sikeade Egbuwalo (Nigeria) and Jennifer Corpuz (Gawis Indigenous Rights), with a mandate to further develop the proposed elements of the guidelines and draft recommendation in document [CBD/SB8J/1/4](#). Participation would be open to all interested Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, and observers.

44. [to be completed]

- (c) **Process to review and update the Voluntary Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts Within the Context of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention (Task 5.4)**

45. The Subsidiary Body considered sub-item 5 (c) at its 3rd plenary session. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the process to review and update the Voluntary Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts Within the Context of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention, which contained a draft recommendation.¹⁴

¹⁰ [CBD/SB8J/1/4](#).

¹¹ [CBD/SB8J/1/INF/5](#).

¹² [CBD/A8J/WS/2025/2/2](#).

¹³ [CBD/A8J/WS/2025/2/3](#).

¹⁴ [CBD/SB8J/1/5](#).

46. A statement was made by a representative of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.
47. Statements were also made by representatives of the following Parties: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (on behalf of the African States), Denmark (on behalf of the European Union and its 27 member States), Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, Russian Federation, Switzerland and Zimbabwe.
48. Further statements were made by representatives of the CBD Women's Caucus and the Technical Secretariat of the Fund for the Development of the Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.
49. Following the exchange of views, the Co-Chair said that she would prepare a revised draft recommendation, in consultation with the Secretariat, taking into account the views expressed or supported by Parties.
50. At its 4th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body considered the revised draft recommendation submitted by the Co-Chair.
51. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Brazil, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union and its 27 member States), Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Mexico, Panama, Russian Federation, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.
52. Following the exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body agreed that a small group would hold informal discussions to achieve consensus on wording for annex I.
53. At its 5th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body resumed its consideration of the revised draft recommendation.
54. At the invitation of the Chair, the facilitator of the small group reported on the outcome of the group's discussion and presented compromise text for annex I.
55. Statements were made by the representatives of the following Parties: Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Indonesia, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zimbabwe.
- 56.
57. *[to be completed]*

Item 6

Provision of advice on traditional knowledge for the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

58. The Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 6 at its 3rd plenary session. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the provision of advice on traditional knowledge for the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Framework, which contained a draft recommendation.¹⁵ An information document had also been issued for agenda item 6, containing submissions of case studies and other information on relevant traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technology of indigenous peoples and local communities for the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Framework.¹⁶
59. A statement was made by a representative of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.
60. Statements were also made by representatives of the following Parties: Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Colombia, Cook Islands, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark (on behalf of the

¹⁵ [CBD/SB8J/1/6](#).

¹⁶ [CBD/SB8J/1/INF/2](#).

European Union and its 27 member States), Egypt, India, Indonesia, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, South Africa and Zimbabwe (on behalf of the African States).

61. Further statements were made by representatives of the Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana, the CBD Women's Caucus and the Global Youth Biodiversity Network.

62. Following the exchange of views, the Co-Chair said that she would prepare a revised draft recommendation, in consultation with the Secretariat, taking into account the views expressed or supported by Parties.

63. *[to be completed]*

Item 7

Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

64. The Subsidiary Body began its consideration of agenda item 7 at its 3rd plenary session. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which contained a draft recommendation.¹⁷

65. A statement was made by a representative of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.

66. Statements were also made by the representatives of Canada and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

67. At its 5th plenary session, the Subsidiary Body resumed its consideration of agenda item 7.

68. Statements were made by the representatives of the following Parties: Brazil, Cameroon (on behalf of the African States), Canada, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union and its 27 member States), Haiti, India, Jordan, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Russian Federation, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

69. A statement was also made by the representative of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

70. Following the exchange of views, the Co-Chair said that she would prepare a revised draft recommendation, in consultation with the Secretariat, taking into account the views expressed and supported by Parties.

71.

72. *[to be completed]*

Item 8

Other matters

73. *[to be completed]*

Item 9

Adoption of the report

74. *[to be completed]*

Item 10

Closure of the meeting

75. *[to be completed]*

¹⁷ [CBD/SB8J/1/7](#).