

**INFORMAL SESSION IN PREPARATION FOR THE THIRD MEETING OF THE  
SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION**

**8–12, 14 March 2021**

**Agenda Item 4: Assessment and Review of the Effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol**

**Statement of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), presented by  
Ms. Jennifer Corpuz, TEBTEBBA**

The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) commends the Secretariat for comprehensively capturing information from the Fourth National Reports for the fourth assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol and final evaluation of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol. We noticed, however, that there is still a gap in involving indigenous peoples in the Compliance Committee and in the implementation of the protocol at the national level.

We are concerned with the limited progress towards the implementation of the strategic plan for the Cartagena Protocol. In this regard, the IIFB urges Parties to consider indigenous and local knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies in parallel with national legislation with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples in the implementation of the Protocol at the national level. Our free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) should also be sought prior the introduction of living modified organisms in their lands and territories.

We also note with concern that about third of the parties have taken into account socio-economic considerations in their decision-making on living modified organisms. Therefore, we urge the Parties to make use of the 'Guidance on the assessment of socio-economic considerations in the context of Article 26 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety' developed by the AHTEG on Socio-economic considerations.

IPBES recognizes that indigenous peoples and local communities possess detailed knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem and have incorporated indigenous and local knowledge in all of its assessment thus it is also important to incorporate indigenous science in the risk assessment and risk management of LMOs and LMOs with engineered gene drives which has potential adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account and indigenous life ways.

We propose the following changes in the suggested recommendations:

## I. SUGGESTED ELEMENTS FOR A RECOMMENDATION

### B. Coordination and support

8. *Recognizes* the importance of coordination among relevant authorities, **relevant stakeholders including indigenous peoples and local communities**, and to various levels and of mainstreaming biosafety for advancing implementation of the Protocol;

### C. Risk assessment and risk management

16. *Recognizes* the need for further support for risk assessment and risk management, including by strengthening human resource capacities, **incorporating indigenous and local knowledge into account**, and by facilitating access to sufficient financial resources and adequate technical infrastructure;

### G. Socio-economic considerations

25. *Encourages* Parties to exchange research and information on socio-economic considerations to support Parties in taking into account socio-economic considerations, ~~in accordance with Article 26 paragraph 1, of the Protocol~~ **arising from the impact of living modified organisms on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, especially with regard to the values of biological diversity to indigenous peoples and local communities**;

25bis. *Encourages* Parties to make use of the 'Guidance on the assessment of socio-economic considerations in the context of Article 26 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety'.

### L. Outreach and cooperation

27. *Stresses* the importance of cooperation among Parties and to **relevant stakeholders including indigenous peoples and local communities**, in addition to cooperation among intergovernmental organizations to support the implementation of the Protocol;