



Twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-26)

13–18 May, 2024

Nairobi, Kenya

AGENDA ITEM 8: MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

**(a) Further work on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas
CBD/SBSTTA/26/7/Add.1**

**(b) Conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity
CBD/SBSTTA/26/7**

DATE: MAY 15, 2024

This statement is on behalf of the **International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB)**
(Delivered by John Cheechoo, Inuit Circumpolar Council Canada)

Thank you Chair

What comes from the oceans, comes to our shores and lands. What comes from our lands interacts with our coastal areas and oceans. These environments are interconnected and are significant in maintaining biodiversity and ecosystems across this planet we call our home and mother.

There are many aspects in this interplay that includes Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women, youth, elders, knowledge holders, fishers, and hunters who practice customary sustainable use and management of our marine environments for our communities and families.

Ultimately we want these gifts to be passed down to our future generations.

The Inuit Circumpolar Council has been engaged in the negotiation and implementation of the Central Arctic Ocean Treaty to prevent unregulated high seas fishing along with other states. We are engaged in the processes of the International Maritime Organization, and continue to deal with matters relating to EBSAs, shipping, marine pollution, protected areas, including Inuit-led marine protected areas.

We want to ensure these processes are inclusive, and in this spirit, IIFB would like to propose text suggestions for Item 8, under sub items a) and b) as follows:

For Item 8 sub a, regarding further work of EBSAs, CBD/SBSTTA/26/7/Add.1, under Recommendations, Section 20, paragraph 4.

At the end of the paragraph 4, it states “,,,holding of additional workshops, “**THAT SHOULD INCLUDE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, LOCAL COMMUNITIES, WOMEN, YOUTH, AND THE USE OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE**”;



Under paragraph 7 in the same section, where it reads, “...including indigenous peoples and local communities, **WOMEN AND YOUTH, ...**

For Item 8, sub b, Conservation and Sustainable use of Marine Biodiversity, CBD/SBSTTA/26/7 Please consider the following:

SECTION V. RECOMMENDATIONS, subsection 31.

Where the paragraph begins:

Recognizing the need to strengthen cooperation and collaboration...beyond national jurisdiction, **INCLUDING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES...**

In the following paragraph where it reads:

Acknowledging the importance of science for decision-making, **INCLUDING THE TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES....**

Two paragraphs below where it reads:

Considering that valuable guidance also emerges from the work of other competent intergovernmental organizations...other Governments, **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES...**

On the next page in subsection paragraph 1,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption **AND THE PENDING IMPLEMENTATION** of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea...

Under subsection paragraph 6 (b), where it reads:

(b) Compile and make available relevant guidance and experiences...other Governments, **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES...**

Under subparagraph 8, in the same section, where it reads:

8. *Requests* that the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, convene an expert workshop...regional organizations, **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES** on opportunities for scientific and technical work, **INCLUDING THE USE OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE,**

We thank the Parties for their consideration and support.