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AD HOC OPEN-ENDED INTER-SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ON ARTICLE 8(j) AND RELATED PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Sixth meeting
Montreal, 2-6 November 2009
Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

INDICATORS FOR ASSESSING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET STATUS OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICES: ANALYSIS OF THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON PROPOSED INDICATORS

Note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. At its sixth meeting, the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a Strategic Plan, including a target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. In decision VII/30, the Conference of the Parties decided to develop a framework to enhance the evaluation of achievements and progress in the implementation of the Plan. The framework included seven focal areas, goals, targets and the identification of provisional indicators, comprising indicators for immediate testing and possible indicators for development.

2. One focal area is to “Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices”. Goal 9 of the framework is to “Maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities”, with the following two targets and with the relevant indicators to be developed by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions:

- Target 9.1: Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices;
- Target 9.2: Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit-sharing.

3. With regard to traditional knowledge, the Conference of the Parties, in its decision VIII/15, included an indicator on the status and trends in linguistic diversity and speakers of indigenous languages as an indicator for immediate testing. Section I of the present document provides a brief update regarding this indicator.

* UNEP/CBD/WG8J/6/1.

4. In paragraph 3 of decision IX/13 H, the Parties recommended that a maximum of two additional indicators on the status of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices should be selected for inclusion in the framework for monitoring the implementation of the 2010 target and requested the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions at its sixth meeting to continue its work on the identification of a limited number of indicators on the status of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, for assessing progress towards achieving the Convention's Strategic Plan and the 2010 biodiversity target.

5. In the same decision, the Parties welcomed the work carried out under the auspices of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions and, in particular, the regional and international expert workshops organized by the Working Group on Indicators of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity to identify a limited number of meaningful, practical and measurable indicators on the status of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, to assess progress towards achieving the Convention's Strategic Plan and the 2010 biodiversity target. They also invited Parties, Governments and relevant organizations, in consultation with indigenous and local communities, to design and, as appropriate, test indicators at the national level for status and trends of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, in order to assess progress towards to 2010 biodiversity target, as well as to assess progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

6. The Conference of the Parties also invited Parties, Governments and relevant organizations, in consultation with indigenous and local communities, to submit to the Executive Secretary information on experiences and lessons learned in designing and, as appropriate, testing, national indicators for status and trends of traditional knowledge. The Executive Secretary has compiled information received from the European Union, and the indigenous working group on indicators and made it available as information documents for the sixth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/6/INF/3, 4 and 5).

7. Taking into account the information received, the Secretariat has, as requested, assessed data availability and prepared the current working document for the consideration of the sixth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, as basis for further work on an additional two possible indicators for traditional knowledge. Section II below provides an overview of the work conducted by the indigenous working group on indicators, focusing on the International Technical Workshop on Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples, held in Baguio City, Philippines, from 17 to 19 November 2008 (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/6/INF/4), as well as the Technical Workshop on Indigenous Peoples Well-being Focusing on Traditional Knowledge (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/6/INF/5), held in Nairobi, from 1 to 3 October 2009. Section III offers draft recommendations for the consideration of the Working Group to take this matter forward.

8. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions is requested at its sixth meeting to continue its work on the identification of a limited number of meaningful, practical and measurable indicators on the status of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, for assessing progress towards achieving the Convention's Strategic Plan and the 2010 biodiversity target.

I. UPDATE ON THE STATUS AND TRENDS OF LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY AND NUMBERS OF SPEAKERS OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

9. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) continues to work on the development of the indicator on "status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages". As part of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership project, supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNESCO has re-evaluated available data on languages and numbers of speakers and decided to focus its efforts on data derived from comparable country censuses. This information will be made available for the third edition of the *Global Biodiversity*

Outlook and consequently for the seventh meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions.

II. THE INDIGENOUS WORKING GROUP ON INDICATORS AND THE INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL WORKSHOPS ON INDICATORS RELEVANT FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

10. In a series of regional and thematic workshops held between 2006 and 2009, with generous financial support of the Governments of Norway, Spain and Sweden, indigenous peoples organizations working with the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant agencies identified core thematic areas for the development of indicators.

11. In November 2007, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity organized an International Experts Seminar on Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals. The workshop was organized as a follow-up to the series of regional, thematic and international workshops held on indicators under the umbrella of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The workshop brought together key experts from among indigenous peoples, United Nations organizations, researchers and Governments to share experiences, identify datasets, derive lessons and elaborate methodologies and tools to guide further work on indicators at national, regional and local levels.

12. The technical workshop was organized by Tebtebba Foundation and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity's Working Group on Indicators and co-sponsored by the International Labour Organization (ILO) programme for the promotion of Convention No. 169 and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, with financial support from the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional. It was held at Camp John Hay, Baguio City, Philippines, from 17 to 19 November 2008.

13. Participants in the workshop included indigenous peoples representatives from Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Nepal, the Philippines, the United Republic of Tanzania and the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact; technical experts; representatives of sponsoring international organizations (ILO, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues); and officials of the Governments of Nepal and the Philippines.

14. The meeting worked in sub-working groups and reports from the sub-working groups were discussed in a plenary session, which broadly supported the recommendations made and identified the next steps forward. It was noted that traditional occupations might be a good entry point for addressing issues affecting indigenous peoples in Africa, who defined themselves by their occupations (hunter-gatherers and pastoralists). It was also noted that the indicators on traditional knowledge needed to be tested in different countries, with indigenous communities helping to develop methodologies. Participants from the Institute for Human Development agreed to start work on creating a statistical database on indigenous peoples in different countries, which would draw on national data collections. It was noted that good sets of data are available in some countries including Canada, Australia, India, New Zealand, as well as for Latin America and the Arctic. The participants agreed to continue the discussion by circulating a list of questions about different types of indicators. Tebtebba was asked to set up a list-serve for this purpose.

15. The discussion focused on two indicators to be proposed for adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010. Further indicators may be proposed for the post-2010 monitoring framework, and eventually for Article 10 (c) on customary sustainable use. The plenary noted that immediate action on indicators was needed, because the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions would be meeting in November 2009.

16. The Workshop recommended the following:

(a) That the two indicators to be proposed to the Conference of the Parties for adoption should be:

(i) Status and trends of land use in indigenous peoples territories; and

(ii) Status and trends of traditional occupations/livelihoods;

(b) The indicators on traditional occupations should focus on occupations where knowledge of traditional culture and practices may influence the way the work is performed;

(c) A strong gender perspective should be ensured in developing both indicators;

(d) A reference group comprising participants in the workshop should guide further work on these indicators;

(e) The International Labour Organization (ILO), the Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity should collaborate on finding resources and a consultant to be mandated with refining the description of traditional occupations/livelihoods;

(f) The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) should be asked to collect data on status and trends in land (and water) use in indigenous peoples' territories;

(g) The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity should be asked to continue its work on indicators.

Follow-up

17. The indigenous working group on indicators also identified the need for further technical discussions on the proposed indicator: "status and trends of land use in indigenous peoples' territories". Further to this, the indigenous working group on indicators, the Tebtebba Foundation, together with Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues (IASG), facilitated the technical workshop on indigenous peoples well-being focusing on traditional knowledge, with a focus on status and trends in land use on indigenous territories, held from 1 to 3 October 2009, back to back with the IASG annual meeting, which was held in Nairobi. Participants included, representatives from Governments, representatives from the indigenous working group on indicators, IASG members, as well as technical experts, from the relevant agencies, including the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), FAO, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), as well as the International Land Coalition, hosted by IFAD. The meeting produced a report and specific technical advice on this issue, which is made available as an information document (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/6/INF/5) to the sixth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j). The outcome of this technical workshop has assisted in the revision of the present document.

18. The workshop on indigenous peoples well-being focusing on traditional knowledge welcomed the proposed UNESCO technical workshop cultural/linguistic indicators, and *requested* UNESCO to ensure the effective participation of IPs and LCs.

19. Regarding indicators work under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity the workshop recommended:

(a). That a land indicator should take into consideration access, use, management, governance, control, the role of traditional authorities and customary law in land management, land conversion, degradation, change in land title/legal recognition, restitution, rehabilitation, areas of traditional territories, surface areas legally recognized, areas currently occupied, community conserved areas and indigenous protected areas;

(b). The land indicator is a useful and practical indicator for inclusion in the proposed post 2010 framework as an effective indicator for ecosystem resilience, human well-being, and local sustainable development;

(c). That a partnership of relevant agencies and indigenous peoples and local communities should be established to guide the process, also bearing in mind the implementation of Article 10(c);

(d). The current working document (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/6/2/Add.4) for the sixth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) should be revised to read:

- (i) Status and trends in land-use patterns in the traditional territories of indigenous and local communities;
- (ii) Status and trends in the practice of traditional occupations.

20. Based on this body of work, draft recommendations are proposed in section III to assist the Working Group in taking this matter forward:

III. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS TO FURTHER ELABORATE A LIMITED NUMBER OF MEANINGFUL AND PRACTICAL INDICATORS RELEVANT TO INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES FOR ASSESSING PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE CONVENTION AND THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET – TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

Recognizing that the status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages is a useful indicator for the retention and use of traditional knowledge, if used along with other indicators,

Noting the importance of both qualitative and quantitative indicators to provide a broad picture of the status and trends of traditional knowledge and capture indigenous and local community realities within the framework of the Strategic Plan and the 2010 biodiversity target,

Welcoming the work carried out under the auspices of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, and in particular the regional and international technical workshops organized by the Working Group on Indicators of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, to identify a limited number of meaningful and practical indicators on the status of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices and in other focal areas, to assess progress towards achieving the Strategic Plan of the Convention and the 2010 biodiversity target,

Expressing its warm gratitude to the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI), the Government of Norway and the Swedish International Biodiversity Programme (Swedbio) for the generous financial support for this initiative,

1. *Decides* to adopt the following proposed indicators, for testing:

/...

(a) Status and trends in land-use patterns in the traditional territories of indigenous and local communities;

(b) Status and trends in the practice of traditional occupations.

and, as the basis for further work on indicators and to complement the adopted indicator,¹ for status and trends of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, in order to assess progress towards to 2010 biodiversity target, as well as to assess progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan;

2. *Requests* the International Labour Organization to explore the possibility of compiling data concerning traditional occupations/livelihoods and to provide advice on the testing of this indicator for the consideration of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions at its seventh meeting;

3. *Further requests* the relevant agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the International Land Coalition, to provide advice on the testing on the indicator “status and trends of land use in indigenous peoples territories” for the consideration of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions at its seventh meeting;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with Parties, Governments, international agencies, indigenous working group on indicators and interested parties, including the 2010 biodiversity indicators partnership, to pursue the ongoing refinement and testing of the proposed indicators, also bearing in mind the implementation of Article 10(c) and the post 2010 revised Strategic Plan, including through further technical workshops, to consider availability of data, methodologies and coordinating organizations, and to report to the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions at its seventh meeting to take these matters forward;

5. *Considering* the new emphasis being placed by Parties on the implementation of Article 10(c), *requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with Parties, Governments, international agencies, indigenous working group on indicators and interested parties, including the 2010 biodiversity indicators partnership, to explore, through further technical workshops, the development of appropriate indicators for customary sustainable use and to report on this matter to the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions at its seventh meeting, so that this matter can be advanced within the framework of post 2010 targets and the revised Strategic Plan.

¹

On status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages.