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ADVISORY GROUP MEETING
ON ARTICLE 8(j) AND RELATED
PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Second meeting
Montreal, 30 April – 03 May 2007

**ELEMENTS OF A PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE RETENTION OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE,
INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICES OF INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES
EMBODYING TRADITIONAL LIFESTYLES RELEVANT FOR THE CONSERVATION AND
SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Note by the Executive Secretary

The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the consideration of participants in the Second meeting of the Advisory Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, the Elements of a Plan of Action for the retention of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, as contained in decision VII/16.

Decision VII/16, Article 8(j) and related provisions

E. Composite report on the status and trends regarding the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Development of a plan of action

Requests the Executive Secretary, through the national focal points in consultation with and after approval of indigenous and local communities, to further develop the draft elements for an action plan contained in the annex to the present recommendation, in particular with a view to identifying actors and timeframes, taking fully into account ongoing work under the Convention and relevant international organizations. The action plan would aim to:

- (a) Facilitate synergy between existing initiatives aimed at halting the loss of and encouraging the retention and use of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
- (b) Provide further practical guidance, respectful of indigenous and local communities' perspectives, for the implementation of the programme of work on the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions as it relates to the retention of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

9. *Invites* Parties, Governments and relevant organizations to take the elements identified in the annex into consideration when deciding upon activities to protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.

Annex

ELEMENTS OF A PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE RETENTION OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICES OF INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES EMBODYING TRADITIONAL LIFESTYLES RELEVANT FOR THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

A. Improved monitoring and reporting process

1. National reports on Article 8(j) should be compiled by Parties in consultation with indigenous and local communities, based on a questionnaire to be produced by the Secretariat.
2. Reporting periods should be agreed upon and reviews of the status and trends of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices should be pursued on a regular basis.
3. Mobilization of resources to undertake regular review should be promoted.
4. Mechanisms should be established to encourage representatives of indigenous groups and local communities to present information under the Convention on Biological Diversity, including capacity building and incentive measures.

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5. Mechanisms should be developed to ensure input from overseas territories and autonomous or semi-autonomous regions.
6. The thematic focal point on Article 8(j) under the clearing-house mechanism should be utilized to catalogue and share best.
7. A survey of current activities of international organizations relevant to Article 8(j) should be undertaken with view to developing synergy.

B. Indicators

8. Indicators on the state of retention of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices should be established with the active involvement of indigenous and local communities, in consultation with relevant organizations, in connection with the ongoing work on indicators under the Convention.
9. Indicators to assess the success or failure of measures to promote or preserve traditional knowledge, innovations and practices should be established, with the active involvement of indigenous and local communities, in connection with the ongoing work on indicators under the Convention.
10. Information on legislative measures to protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices as drawn from regional and national reports, should be kept up to date.

C. Research ethics

11. Examples of codes of ethics and conduct governing research as used by such bodies as research institutions, business and indigenous and local communities, should be gathered with a view to assisting in future possible development of codes of ethics or conduct, and to guide further research on the retention and use of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
12. Parties, Governments, international organizations, research institutions and business should respect and promote existing codes of ethics or conduct governing research, and Parties, Governments and relevant organizations should facilitate the development of additional codes by indigenous and local communities where none exist.

D. Research on and implementation of mechanisms and measures to address the underlying causes of the decline of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices

13. Research should be undertaken on existing and new threats to the retention and use of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.
14. Mechanisms to promote cooperation in order to address the cause of decline should be identified in cooperation with the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues of the United Nations and other relevant initiatives and organizations.
15. Parties should be encouraged, in accordance with national domestic law and international obligations, to recognize land tenure of indigenous and local communities, as recognized rights

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and access to land are fundamental to the retention of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.

16. Subject to national legislation and international obligations, Parties should be encouraged to pursue the fair and equitable resolution of land claims as an essential element of efforts to facilitate the retention and use of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.

17. Indigenous and local communities should, where relevant, be actively involved in the management of protected areas.

18. The rights of indigenous and local communities should be given due respect when establishing new protected areas.

19. Parties should establish measures to ensure respect for the rights of unprotected or voluntarily isolated communities.

20. Restrictions on use of and access to sacred sites or otherwise culturally significant sites should be incorporated into appropriate local or national legislation, in consultation with and with full involvement of indigenous and local communities.

21. Legislation intended to protect, promote the use of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices should be consistent with the needs and views of indigenous and local communities, comprehensive and enforceable.

22. Parties should be encouraged to work with indigenous and local communities to develop measures and mechanisms to mitigate the consequences of actions arising from perverse incentives leading to the decline of knowledge, innovations and practices embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

23. Parties should share their experiences with incentive measures as well as other mechanisms and measures to support the retention and use of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

24. Mobilization of financial and technical resources should be promoted to support the design and implementation of mechanisms and measures to support retention of knowledge, innovations and practices embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

E. Capacity-building, education and training

25. Parties, Governments and relevant organizations should be encouraged to facilitate strengthening existing indigenous organizational structures and organizations representing local communities.

26. Specific capacity-building activities should be targeted at indigenous women and women in rural or otherwise marginal communities, and at traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.

27. Where appropriate, traditional knowledge, innovations and practices should be integrated into formal, local, subnational or national systems of education, which are directed towards local or indigenous communities.

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28. Education and training should be offered to indigenous and local communities with special attention to the future role of young people so as to enable sustainable development, while being compatible with their traditions.

29. Parties, Governments and relevant stakeholders should be encouraged to learn about knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and to incorporate it in decision-making processes.