



# CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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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 – 3 May 2007

### ORGANIZATION OF WORK

#### *Annotations to the provisional agenda*

#### INTRODUCTION

1. In decision VIII/5/B/I, paragraph 3, on Article 8(j) and related provisions, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to further develop phase two of the composite report on the status and trends of traditional knowledge relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, in order to further developed the report taking on board the comments made at the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions and to produce a revised version of it.
2. In paragraph 8 of the same decision<sup>1</sup>, the Conference of the Parties renewed the mandate of the advisory group established by decisions VI/10, annex I, paragraph 28(b) and VII/16 E, paragraph 4 (d), to continue to provide advice on the further development of phase two of the composite report, and in particular, element D, research on and implementation of mechanisms and measures to address the underlying causes of the decline of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.
3. Pursuant to this request, the Executive Secretary informed the members of the Advisory Group on the renewal of the Group's mandate and, with the financial support of the Government of Spain, has convened a second meeting of the Advisory Group on Article 8 (j) and related provisions to be held in Montreal, from 30 April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2007.
4. As requested by the Conference of the Parties, the main purpose of the second meeting of the meeting of the Advisory Group is to review phase two of the composite report, focusing on the regional reports and element D of the plan of action for the retention of traditional knowledge and on new research requested by the Parties, concerning possible guidelines for documenting traditional knowledge (including potential threats of documentation), indigenous and local communities and climate change and finally, protecting the rights of indigenous and local communities living in voluntary isolation. In

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<sup>1/</sup> For the convenience of participants, decision VIII/5 Article 8(j) and related provisions, is available as an information document UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/INF/2

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addition, the Executive Secretary wishes to seize this opportunity to draw upon the expertise of Advisory Group members to seek advice and guidance regarding a number of issues under consideration in the framework of the work programme on Article 8 (j) and related provisions and which will be on the agenda of the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8 (j) and other provisions, to be held in Montreal, 15-19 October 2007. The advice and guidance provided by the Advisory Group will assist the Secretariat in the preparation of documentation for the meeting. These relevant issues are examined below.

5. The draft revised regional reports for phase two of the composite report as well as other documents for the meeting of the Advisory Group are available at <http://www.biodiv.org/meetings/default.shtml>

### **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

6. The meeting will be opened by the Executive Secretary, on Monday, 30 April 2007 at 9.30 a.m. After the official opening by the Executive Secretary, the Advisory Group members will be asked to introduce themselves briefly, sharing information about their areas of expertise and the region they come from.

### **ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

7. The meeting will be chaired by the Secretariat representative.

8. The meeting will be invited to adopt the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/1) prepared by the Secretariat.

9. The Advisory Group Meeting is invited to consider the proposed organization of work for the meeting contained in annex II below.

10. The work will be carried out in plenary. However, working groups may be set up on an ad hoc basis to consider different aspects of the agenda. Annex I includes a list of documents for the meeting.

### **ITEM 3. 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: REVISION OF DRAFT REGIONAL REPORTS AND CONSIDERATION OF NEW RESEARCH ITEMS**

11. A representative of the Secretariat will review the mandate of the Advisory Group against the background of the programme of work. Each regional representative will then be invited to introduce his/her revisions regarding their respective regions for the Composite Report on the Status and Trends regarding the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities. This will be followed by discussion in plenary.

12. It is expected that the Advisory Group will consider, refine and enrich the information presented, in order to produce a revised version of the regional reports, which make up phase II of the composite report. The working groups should also consider whether the regional reports address all priority issues as requested by the Conference of the Parties (decision VII/16 E), especially sections 4 and 5 of the outline of the composite report, foreseeing respectively the identification of national processes that may threaten the maintenance, preservation and application of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices and the identification of processes at the local community level that may threaten the maintenance, preservation and application of traditional knowledge, innovations and

practices (decision VI/10, annex I). <sup>2/</sup> A comprehensive analysis of obstacles is a necessary foundation for an informed discussion of the document prepared on element D of the plan of action (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/4), which is taken up under item 4 of the agenda.

14. Secondly, Parties requested, in decision VIII/5/B/1, paragraphs 5, 6 and 7, respectively, that the Executive Secretary, explore the possibility of developing technical guidelines for recording and documenting traditional knowledge, innovations and practices and to analyze the potential threats of such documentation to the rights of holders of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices; conduct further research into highly vulnerable indigenous and local communities, with a focus on causes and solutions; and prepare a report on possible measures to ensure respect for the rights of unprotected and voluntarily isolated communities taking into account their traditional knowledge and the development of access and benefit-sharing regimes.

15. To assist the Advisory Group members, the Secretariat has provided a working document (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/6) regarding the possibility of developing guidelines for documenting traditional knowledge including potential threats posed by documentation. Furthermore consultants have prepared two reports on indigenous and local communities highly vulnerable to climate change and a report on protecting the rights of indigenous and local communities living in voluntary isolation. These three working documents will be presented by a representative of the Secretariat and the consultants in order to improve the drafts and finalise them, after which they will be processed for consideration by the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions. The Advisory Group members will be provided with an opportunity to comment in plenary on the three documents before them

#### **ITEM 4. ELEMENTS B AND D OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE RETENTION OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICES OF INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

16. Under this agenda item, the representative of the Secretariat will introduce elements of a plan of action for the retention of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities as contained in COP 7, Decision 16/E, paragraphs 8-9, Annex, copy of which is available as information document UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/INF/3. The action plan aims to identify actors and timeframes, taking into account ongoing work under the Convention and relevant organizations, to facilitate synergy between existing initiatives aimed at halting the loss of and encouraging the retention and use of traditional knowledge.

17. In decision VIII/5 B, paragraph 8, the Parties requested the Advisory Group to focus on element D, research on and implementation of mechanisms and measures to address the underlying causes of the decline of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices. Furthermore in paragraph 12 of that decision, the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to continue gathering and analyzing information, in consultation with Parties, Governments, indigenous and local communities, with a view to further developing the plan of action, giving priority to sections B and D, and to report on the advancement of this task to the Working Group at its fifth meeting

18. Advisory Group members will be requested to provide advice concerning element B (Indicators), which may be further considered under agenda item 8, when the representative of the International Indigenous Forum on Biological Diversity presents her report on indicators.

19. To assist discussions on element D, a draft paper (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/4) has been prepared for the consideration of the Advisory Group. A consultant will introduce the draft report and Advisory Group members will be requested to comment and provide substantive input to assist the

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<sup>2/</sup> The second phase of the composite report (refer Executive Summary UNEP/CBD/WG8J/4/4) identified 28 obstacles at local, national and international levels to the retention and use of traditional knowledge.

consultant in finalizing the document, which will be considered at the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j).

**ITEM 5. PARTICIPATORY MECHANISMS FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE WORK OF THE CONVENTION: CRITERIA FOR THE OPERATION OF THE VOLUNTARY FUNDING MECHANISM – THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SELECTION COMMITTEE IN LINE WITH DECISION VIII/5 D OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES**

20. Under this item, the representative of the Secretariat will draw Advisory Group member's attention to decision VIII/5 D, to initiate a discussion of work arising from this decision. In particular, decision VIII/5 D, annex, paragraph (d), requests the Executive Secretary to consult, through electronic means and long distance communication, with an Advisory Selection Committee consisting of seven representatives of indigenous and local communities nominated by indigenous and local communities from the seven geo-cultural regions applied under the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues<sup>3</sup>, as well as the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties.

21. In order to solicit nominations for the Advisory Selection Committee, and implement this decision, the Executive Secretary in notification 2006-072, wrote to indigenous and local communities inviting them to nominate representatives for the Advisory Selection Committee, as soon as possible but no later than 30 September 2006. To date, the Executive Secretary has not received sufficient nominations to establish this committee. The voluntary fund to support indigenous and local community participation to meetings held under the Convention is now fully operational and it is important that all mechanisms are in place to ensure the smooth operations of the fund. Under this agenda item, Advisory Group members will be asked for their advice regarding this matter, so that the proposed selection committee can be finalized.

**ITEM 6. DEVELOPMENT OF ELEMENTS OF *SUI GENERIS* SYSTEMS FOR THE PROTECTION OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICES**

21. As per decision VIII/5, paragraphs 1-8, under this agenda item, the representative of the Secretariat will introduce an initial overview of relevant material/s regarding *sui generis* systems for the protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/9). Decision VIII/5 E, paragraph 4, request the Executive Secretary to continue gathering and analyzing information, in consultation with Parties, Governments and indigenous and local community organizations to further develop as a priority issue, the possible elements, listed in the annex to decision VII/16 H, for consideration by the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j), to enable the Working Group to identify priority elements of *sui generis* systems.

22. The participants will be invited to contribute to the further development of elements of *sui generis* systems, taking into account the specific characteristics of the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities and bearing in mind that the issue of *sui generis* systems is related to the negotiation of an international regime on access and benefit sharing. In particular, participants will be requested to identify priority elements of *sui generis* systems for the consideration of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions, at its next meeting.

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<sup>3/</sup> Those being Africa; Asia; Eastern, Central Europe and the Caucasus; Europe and Arctic; Latin America including the Caribbean and Central America; North America; and the Pacific.

**ITEM 7. ETHICAL CODE OF CONDUCT TO ENSURE RESPECT FOR THE CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL HERITAGE OF INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

23. In decision VIII/5 F, paragraph 4, the Executive Secretary was requested to compile views and comments on elements of an ethical code of conduct for the consideration of the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j). A compilation of views (refer UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/10) has been collated including input from Argentina, the European Commission, Ms. Kelly Bannister, Chair of the Ethics Committee of the International Society of Ethnobiology (University of Victoria), Mr. Tom Hammond, Senior Program Advisor, IUCN The World Conservation Union and Mr. Peter Croal, senior environmental specialist, Environmental Assessment and Compliance Unit, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The representative of the Secretariat will introduce the compilation and solicit comments from the Advisory Group to assist with the revision of the draft elements of the code.

**ITEM 8. INDICATORS FOR ASSESSING PROGRESS TOWARDS THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET: STATUS OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICES**

25. A representative of the Secretariat will present decision VIII/5 G and outline the work carried out by the Secretariat in support of the IIFB's initiative on indicators for traditional knowledge, sustainable use, the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The chair of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity's (IIFB) working group on indicators, Ms. Joji Carino will be invited to present the report of the IIFB meeting on indicators, outlining conclusions and recommendations.

26. This will be followed by a discussion of the conclusions and recommendations of the report and possible indicators, including but not limited to the retention and use of traditional knowledge, including status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages, as well as other possible indicators to assess the success or failure of measures to promote or preserve traditional knowledge, innovations and practices and others.

**ITEM 9. INTERNATIONAL REGIME ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING**

27. Under this item, the Co-chair of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on access and benefit-sharing will brief the Advisory Group on recent developments and preparatory work for the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing to be held in Montreal, in October 2007, back-to-back with the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8 (j) and related provisions. In accordance with decision VIII/5 C, Advisory Group members will be invited to provide guidance on how the Working Group on Article 8 (j) can best contribute to the negotiations of an international regime on Access and Benefit-Sharing in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing. In accordance with paragraph 1 of the above-mentioned decision, the Working Group on Article 8(j) is "to provide views on the elaboration and negotiation of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing relevant to traditional knowledge, innovations and practices associated with genetic resources and to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization".

**ITEM 10. OTHER MATTERS**

28. Under this agenda item, advisory group members may wish to discuss other issues related to the work program on article 8(j) and related provisions. Also, the Secretariat will introduce a current project concerning the organization of an Indigenous Communities, Tourism and Biodiversity Workshop. The Secretariat, in partnership with Carleton University intends will hold a three-day workshop in November 2007, as the first in a global series of regional and subregional capacity-building workshops for indigenous and local communities on matters related to the Convention and, in particular, for the

enhanced implementation of the Convention's Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development, with the view to support and strengthen indigenous and local initiatives in this area. Advisory Group members will be provided with an opportunity in plenary to provide comments regarding this initiative.

**ITEM 11. ADOPTION OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

29. The Advisory Group/Steering Committee will consider and adopt its conclusions and recommendations on the basis of a draft to be presented by the Secretariat.

**ITEM 12. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

30. The meeting is expected to close at 5 p.m. on Thursday, 3 May 2007.

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*Annex I***DOCUMENTS FOR THE SECOND MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 8(J) AND RELATED PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, MONTREAL, 30 APRIL–3 MAY 2007****Working documents**

1. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/1

Agenda

2. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/1/Add.1

Annotated agenda

3. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/2/Add.1

Revision of the second phase of the composite report – Africa.

4. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/2/Add.2

Revision of the second phase of the composite report – Arctic

5. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/2/Add.3

Revision of the second phase of the composite report – Asia/Australia

6. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/2/Add.4

Revision of the second phase of the composite report – Latin American and the Caribbean

7. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/2/Add.5

Revision of the second phase of the composite report – Pacific

8. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/2/Add.6

Revision of the second phase of the composite report – North America

9. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/3

Draft Report on indigenous and local communities highly vulnerable to climate change

10. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/4

Draft Report of measures and mechanisms to address the underlying causes of the decline of traditional knowledge - Element D of the Plan of Action for the retention of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities.

11. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/5

Draft report on protecting the rights of indigenous and local communities living in voluntary isolation

12. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/6

Draft Report - Considerations for developing technical guidelines for recording and documenting traditional knowledge and potential threats of such documentation.

13. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/7

Draft Document - An international regime on access and benefit sharing

14. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/8

Draft Document on Mechanisms to promote the participation of indigenous and local communities in matters related to the objectives of Article 8(j) and related provisions: including monitor use of the Convention website and consult with ILCs to identify any gaps or shortcomings.

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15. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/9

Draft Document concerning further development of elements of *sui generis* systems for the protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices to identify priority elements.

16. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/10

Draft Document - Compilation of views concerning an ethical code of conduct to ensure respect for the cultural and intellectual heritage of indigenous and local communities

17. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/11

Report of the IIFB regional consultations and international workshop on indicators - Indicators for assessing progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target: status of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.

**Information Documents**

18. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/INF/1

Submission concerning the regional African report by Advisory Group member, Mr. Gladman Chibememe, Zimbabwe.

19. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/INF/2

Decision VIII/5, Article 8(j) and related provisions

20. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/INF/3

Decision VII/16/E, 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

21. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/INF/4/ENGLISH

Report of the Latin American (including Caribbean, Central America and South America) Report on indicators – English

22. UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/INF/4/SPANISH

Report of the Latin American (including Caribbean, Central America and South America) Report on indicators –Spanish



*Annex II*

**PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE FOR THE SECOND MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ARTICLE 8(J) AND RELATED PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<p><i>Monday</i> <i>30 April 2007</i> 9.30 am to 12.30 p.m.</p>	<p>1. Opening of the meeting;</p> <p>2. Organizational matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election of officers;</li> <li>• Adoption of the agenda;</li> <li>• Organization of work.</li> </ul>	<p>1. Meeting opened by the Executive Secretary of the Convention.</p> <p>2. The programme officer for Article 8(j) will assist as Rapporteur; and a representative of the SCBD will act as chairperson. Power-Point presentation on CBD and Article 8(j) after the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be presented by Programme Officer for Traditional Knowledge, and will be followed by a review of the objectives of the Advisory Group, the background and relevant Convention processes and decisions, including an overview of the 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.</p> <p>The presentation is followed by discussion related to the topics presented.</p>
<p>2.– 5.30 p.m.</p>	<p>3. Phase two of the 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: revisions of regional reports.</p>	<p>3. Regional advisory group members will break into regional working groups to discuss revisions of the regional reports for one hour, and regional groups will nominate a representative to present their revisions to plenary at 3.00 pm. Presentations by the regional consultants of the regional reports for Africa; Asia and Australia; Arctic; Latin, Central America and the Caribbean, North America and the Pacific.</p> <p>This will be followed by a question and answer period and discussions in plenary.</p>

	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<i>Tuesday</i> <i>1 May 2007</i> 9.00 am. to 12.30 pm	<p>3. 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:</p> <p>a. Exploring the possibility of developing guidelines for document traditional knowledge including possible threats of documentation;</p> <p>b. Indigenous and local communities highly vulnerable to climate change;</p> <p>c. protecting the rights of indigenous and local communities living in voluntary isolation.</p>	<p>3. Presentations by the consultants of the reports commissioned by the Secretariat.</p> <p>The Secretariat will present an overview of the draft document concerning documenting traditional knowledge and afterwards facilitated an interactive discussion to gather advice from the Advisory Group in plenary. The two consultants for the draft reports on indigenous and local communities highly vulnerable to climate change and the draft report on protecting the rights of indigenous and local communities living in voluntary isolation, will present an overview of their draft reports to the Advisory Group members in plenary. In turn, the Advisory Group members will be requested to provide advice to the consultants to assist them in finalizing the draft reports for consideration of the fifth meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions.</p>
<i>Tuesday</i> <i>1 May 2007</i> 1.00 p.m. to 5.30 pm.	<p>4. Elements B and D of the plan of action for the retention of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities.</p>	<p>4. The representative of the Secretariat will familiarize the Advisory Group members with the plan of action with an emphasis on elements B and D and will facilitate a discussion in plenary concerning B. Indicators, in order to garner the advice of the members. Further discussions on indicators will be taken up under item 8 of the agenda. A consultant will present the report on element D, Research on and implementation of mechanisms and measures to address the underlying causes of the decline of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices in plenary and through an interactive discussion facilitated by the Secretariat will gather the comments of the members to assist finalizing the draft document.</p>
<i>Wednesday</i> <i>2 May 2007</i> 9.00 am to 12.30 pm	<p>9. International regime on access and benefit sharing.</p> <p>6. Development of elements of <i>sui generis</i> systems for the protection of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices.</p>	<p>9. This agenda item has been rescheduled for 2 May, to allow the Co-Chair of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing to participate in the meeting. The programme officer for ABS will provide a brief update of the negotiations regarding an international regime on ABS and introduce the Co-Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Tim Hodges, of Canada. Mr. Hodges will then hold an interactive discussion in plenary, concerning recent developments and upcoming events including on how the Working Group on Article 8(j) and the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing might collaborate together.</p> <p>6. A representative of the Secretariat will present the draft document of on elements of <i>sui generis</i> systems (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/AG/2/9) and seek advice in plenary, from the advisory group members regarding priority elements.</p>

	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<i>Wednesday</i> 2 May 2007 2 – 5.30 p.m.	7. Ethical code of conduct to ensure respect for the cultural and intellectual heritage of indigenous and local communities.	7. The representative of the Secretariat will present the draft document – Compilation of views concerning the draft elements of the code of conduct for the consideration of the members and will seek their advice in plenary concerning revision of the draft elements.
<i>Thursday</i> 3 May 2007 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	8. Indicators for assessing progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target and others.	8. In plenary, the representative of the Secretariat will introduce the relevant decision on indicators and Ms. Joji Carino, who in turn will introduce the report of the IIFB International Expert Meeting on Indicators, after which the Secretariat will seek the views of the members of the Advisory Group.
2– 5 p.m.	5. Participatory mechanism for the participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Convention.  10. Other matters – including presentation of proposed tourism workshop.  11. Adoption of the Conclusions and Recommendations;  12. Closure of meeting.	5. A representative of the Secretariat will provide an update on the voluntary fund established to facilitate indigenous and local community participation in meetings held under the Convention and seek the advice of members in plenary as to the establishment of a selection committee.  10. Under other matters, Mr. Oliver Hillel, the Secretariat's Programme Officer for sustainable use, tourism and island biodiversity, will introduce, in plenary, a current project of the Secretariat concerning the facilitation of an indigenous communities and biodiversity workshop, focused on new information and web-based technologies for the Arctic region, to solicit comments and advice from the Advisory Group. After this, the representative of the Secretariat will provide an opportunity to Advisory group members for questions and discussions regarding other issues related to Article 8(j) and related provisions and Article 8(j) as a cross-cutting issue.  11. The representative of the Secretariat will take participants through the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting based on a draft prepared by the secretariat for adoption by the meeting.  12. The meeting is expected to close by 5 p.m. on Thursday, 3 May 2007.

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