



Convention on Biological Diversity

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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

Seventh meeting

Montreal, 31 October - 4 November 2011

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

LOCAL COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF ARTICLE 8(j) AND RELATED PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 21 of decision X/43, the Conference of the Parties noted that the involvement of local communities in accordance with Article 8(j) has been limited for various reasons, and requested the Secretariat to convene an ad hoc expert group meeting of local community representatives, bearing in mind geographic and gender balance, with a view to identifying common characteristics of local communities, and gathering advice on how local communities can more effectively participate in Convention processes, including at the national level, as well as how to develop targeted outreach in order to assist in the implementation of the Convention and achievement of its goals, for consideration at the seventh meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, to assist the Working Group in taking this matter forward. The expert group meeting was held in Montreal on 14-16 July, 2011.

2. The full report of the meeting, is available in document UNEP/CBD/WG8J/7/8/Add.1 and contains the advice of the experts under the thematic areas of: Common characteristics; Effective participation of local communities to assist in the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of its goals; and Targeted outreach for local communities to assist in the implementation of the Convention and achievement of its goals. To assist the Working Group in its consideration of this item, the Secretariat has provided in section II below, a draft decision based on the advice and recommendations arising from the meeting.

3. The Working Group may also wish to take into consideration, under agenda item 5 (In-depth dialogue), possible topics for the next in-depth dialogue as recommended by the Expert Group Meeting, those being “Nomadic, semi-nomadic local communities, transhumance and dry and sub-humid lands” or “Marine and coastal biodiversity and indigenous and local communities” and advise the Conference of the Parties accordingly.

* UNEP/CBD/WG8J/7/1/Rev.1.

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II. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Recognizing that the involvement of local communities in accordance with Article 8(j) has been limited,

Also recognizing that the full and effective participation of local communities is crucial for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention and implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Expert Group Meeting of Local Communities Representatives (UNEP/CBD/WG8J/7/8/Add.1), as useful practical guidance and advice concerning local communities;

2. *Decides* to be guided by the characteristics listed in section I of the annex to the report of the Expert Group Meeting, as useful advice in identifying local communities, within the mandate of the Convention;

3. *Decides* to use the advice in section II of the annex to the report of the Expert Group Meeting regarding effective participation, as useful guidance to more effectively engaging local communities in the implementation of the Convention;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take practical steps to ensure that representatives of local communities have equitable access to the Voluntary Fund for the participation of indigenous and local community representatives in meetings held under the Convention, as well as capacity-building workshops; and to commence disaggregation of data and statistics on local-community representatives; and to report on these measures to the eighth meeting of the Working Group for its consideration;

5. *Furthermore requests* the Executive Secretary and Parties, taking into account the advice from section III of the annex to the report of the Expert Group Meeting, to work with representatives of local communities to develop targeted outreach, through CEPA, for local communities to more effectively encourage their participation in the work of the Convention, including at national and subnational levels and especially in the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity.
