



Ref.: SCBD/SSSF/AS/JS/MLS/87830

24 January 2019

## NOTIFICATION

### **Online Forum, submission of views, and information regarding the Programme of Work on Article 8(j) and related provisions**

Dear Madam/Sir,

At its fourteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity indicated that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions will meet prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties<sup>1</sup> and adopted a number of decisions containing requests to the Working Group.

The purpose of this notification is to invite Parties, other Governments, international organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, non-governmental organizations and other relevant organizations to participate in an online forum and to submit views and information on various matters, in order to allow the timely preparation of documentation for the eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, as further elaborated below. A notification concerning the dates and the provisional agenda will be circulated in due course.

### **Online Forum on the integration of Article 8(j) and provisions related to indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention and its Protocols**

The Conference of the Parties, in its decision 14/17, paragraph 6, on the integration of Article 8(j) and provisions related to indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention and its Protocols, requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate an online forum inviting Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, other relevant organizations and interested stakeholders to have an initial exchange of views and information, as appropriate, on:

- (a) Possible objectives to be considered to achieve an effective integration of matters of direct relevance to indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the subsidiary bodies, and to enable the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention;
- (b) Possible elements of a programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions as part of the post-2020 biodiversity framework;
- (c) Possible institutional arrangements, including lessons learned and pros and cons of current arrangements.

In order to progress this matter, the following activities are organized jointly by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 14/37

To: CBD, TK, and ABS National Focal Points, indigenous and local community organizations, non-governmental organizations, academics, and international organizations



through Equator Connect, Equator Initiative of UNDP, in collaboration with the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) and the Indigenous Women's Network on Biodiversity (IWNB):

- (i) Three webinars (1 English, 1 French, 1 Spanish) on **19 February 2019**;
- (ii) A follow-up survey
- (iii) An Online discussion forum from 19 February to 12 March 2019.

In order to participate in these activities, please visit the following webpage: <https://www.cbd.int/tk/future.shtml>. Participants are encouraged to register in advance.

### **Submission of views and information**

#### *1. Possible elements of a fully-integrated programme of work as part of the post-2020 biodiversity framework*

As requested in decision 14/17, paragraph 8, Parties, Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant international organizations, in particular other biodiversity-related conventions, and interested stakeholders are invited to submit views on possible elements of a fully-integrated programme of work as part of the post-2020 biodiversity framework, including views for the further development of a post-2020 specific safeguards framework for indigenous peoples and local communities under the Convention (decision 14/15, paragraphs 8-10).

#### *2. Possible institutional arrangements and their modus operandi for the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions*

As requested in decision 14/17, paragraph 9, Parties, Governments and indigenous peoples and local communities are invited to submit views on possible institutional arrangements and their modus operandi for the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions, such as, but not limited to, the following:

(a) Establishing a subsidiary body on Article 8(j) and related provisions with a mandate to provide advice to the Conference of the Parties, other subsidiary bodies, and, subject to their approval, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the respective Protocols, on matters that are relevant to indigenous peoples and local communities and are within the scope of the Convention;

(b) Continuing the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions with a revised mandate within the framework of the post-2020 biodiversity framework;

(c) Applying the enhanced participation mechanisms used by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions for the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, as appropriate, when addressing matters of direct relevance to indigenous peoples and local communities in the subsidiary bodies, in order to ensure their effective participation and to fully integrate them into the work of the Convention.

#### *3. In-depth Dialogue*

In order to prepare a suitable background document to provide a context for the In-depth Dialogue to be held at the eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, views and information are invited on the topic of the In-depth Dialogue, which is the “*contribution of the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, and cultural diversity to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework*”.

#### *4. Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions*

As requested in decisions 14/17, paragraph 5, Parties and other Governments are invited to report on the implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions, in particular tasks 1, 2 and 4<sup>2</sup> and the implementation of the Plan of Action on customary sustainable use, as well as the

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<sup>2</sup> The programme of work is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/traditional/pow.shtml>

application of the guidelines and standards<sup>3</sup> adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the implementation of the Convention, in order to determine progress made and inform the development of the post-2020 biodiversity framework.

*5. A Rapprochement of Nature and Culture*

In decision 14/30, paragraph 25, the Conference of the Parties recognized that the Joint Programme of Work on the links between biological and cultural diversity has been a useful platform for collaboration between the Secretariat and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in pursuit of common objectives with respect to nature and culture. In paragraph 26, the Conference of the Parties requests the Executive Secretary to consult with the Secretariat of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with a view, subject to the availability of resources, to preparing options for possible elements of work aimed at a rapprochement of nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In this vein, Parties, other governments, relevant international organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, non-government organizations and academia are invited to submit views on possible elements of work aimed at bringing about a rapprochement of nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

***Timeframe for contributions of view and information***

In order to facilitate the timely preparation of documentation for the eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations are invited to submit their contributions on the above-mentioned issues, as soon as possible and no later than **15 March 2019**. Please note that all submissions should be provided, preferably electronically in word format, to [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int).

**National Focal Point for Article 8(j) and related provisions**

Lastly, Parties are reminded of decision X/40 B, paragraph 7, in which the Conference of the Parties invited Parties to consider designating national focal points for Article 8(j) and related provisions to facilitate communications with indigenous and local community organizations and to promote the effective development and implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions. Parties that have not yet done so are therefore invited to consider designating national focal points for Article 8 (j) and related provisions, and to provide the contact information of the focal points to the Secretariat for inclusion in the list of national focal points on the web-site of the Convention, so that networking, communication and capacity-building can be facilitated.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD  
Executive Secretary

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<sup>3</sup> See the guidelines related to Article 8(j) and the Plan of Action at <https://www.cbd.int/guidelines/>