



Statement by the Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the twenty-second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues during the discussion of item 3, on the discussion of the theme “Indigenous Peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach”

New York, 18 April 2023

Distinguished members of the Permanent Forum, delegates, indigenous peoples’ representatives,

As the Secretary-General highlighted yesterday, the interacting crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and the degradation of land and waters are threatening the health of the planet and undermining the health of people.

Indigenous peoples are among the most directly affected by these crises, but they are also at the forefront of defending the environment, of protecting Mother Earth.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting, in Montreal, in December 2022, sets out goals and targets for urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and by 2030 to put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and planet, towards the vision of living in harmony with nature.

Indigenous peoples and local communities were active participants in the process of developing the new Framework. As a result, one of the most prominent features of the Framework is the recognition of the role and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in rebuilding our relationship with nature.

The Framework recognizes and considers diverse value systems and concepts, including those that recognize the rights of nature and the rights of Mother Earth. Recognizing the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is crucial to the Framework, underscoring that biodiversity is essential for supporting life on Earth.

Several of the goals and targets of the Framework specifically address indigenous peoples’ interests, including those on:

- Area-based conservation, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories;
- The use of wild species, protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use;
- The fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.

One target, Target 22, calls for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their rights over lands, territories and resources, and the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.

Moreover, cross-cutting the entire Framework is a requirement that, in its implementation, the rights, traditional knowledge, worldviews and values of indigenous peoples must be respected in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other relevant instruments. The Framework also includes a safeguard statement that nothing in it may be construed as diminishing or extinguishing the rights that indigenous peoples currently have or may acquire in the future.

- 1 -



The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is an ambitious yet realistic agreement for broad-based actions to foster a rights-based approach that can heal our planet. Let's embrace this opportunity to build a sustainable and resilient future for all.

I thank you.
