



Outcomes of the CBD COP16 on Article 8 (j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Olivier Rukundo
Head of the Peoples and Biodiversity Unit
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Outcomes of COP16 on Article 8 (j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity

At its sixteen meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP16) adopted five decisions to advance the agenda on Article 8 (j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, marking a significant step forward in strengthening the role of indigenous peoples and local communities under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

- **Decision: Programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030.**
- **Decision: Institutional arrangements for the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work undertaken under the Convention on Biological Diversity.**
- **Decision: Role of people of African descent, comprising [collectives] embodying traditional lifestyles in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity**
- **Decision: In-depth dialogue “The role of languages in the intergenerational transmission of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices”**
- **Decision: Recommendations from the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues pertaining to the Convention on Biological Diversity**



New Programme of Work

- COP16 decides to adopt the new programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030, prioritizing those tasks that contribute directly to the timely, full and effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).
- The new programme of work is guided by nine general principles and comprises eight elements and 29 tasks to be completed by various actors.
- These address critical areas on the conservation and restoration; sustainable use of biological diversity; benefits-sharing from the utilization of genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources; knowledge and culture; strengthening implementation and monitoring progress; full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities; human rights-based approach; and access to funding.



Establishment of a new Subsidiary Body

- COP16 decided to establish a **permanent subsidiary body** on Article 8j and other Provisions of the Convention (SB8J).
- This new Subsidiary Body will replace the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j), providing a permanent institutional space dedicated to traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous people and local communities.
- By creating a permanent space for indigenous peoples and local communities within the Convention processes, it strengthens the institutional framework for respecting and promoting traditional knowledge, rights and contributions in global biodiversity efforts. It ensures that all seven United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) sociocultural regions have the capacity to guide Parties and participate in the work of SB8j.



Establishment of a new Subsidiary Body

- The **mandate** of the new permanent body will be to provide advice to the Conference of the Parties, other subsidiary bodies and, subject to their request, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity on all matters of relevance to indigenous peoples and local communities that are within the scope of the Convention and its Protocols.
- SB8j modus operandi, contained in its annex, will be finalized at its first meeting and submitted for consideration and adoption at COP17. On an interim basis, the modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and established practices of the Working Group on Article 8 (j) will apply.



First meeting of the Subsidiary Body (SB8(j)-1)

- The first meeting of the Subsidiary Body will be held in Panama City from 27 to 30 October 2025.
- The meeting will be preceded by the twenty-seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, to be held from 20 to 24 October 2025 in the same venue.
- The outcomes of the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body will be submitted to the Conference of the Parties, at its seventeenth meeting, for its consideration.



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Thank you!

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON
**ECOSYSTEM
RESTORATION**
2021-2030

