



SBSTTA 23

Montreal, Canada 25 - 29 November 2019

Agenda Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Biodiversity and climate change

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB).

We thank and support the recommendations provided by Finland, EU, Sweden, Nepal, and the Philippines.

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) are among the first to face the direct consequences of climate change because of our close relationship with our lands, waters and territories even though we contribute the least to greenhouse gas emissions. Indigenous peoples have the knowledge systems practiced, cultivated and transferred since time immemorial that are critical to mitigate climate change impacts that enhance the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The findings of the IPBES Global Assessment and of the IPCC Special Report on land use and climate change have highlighted the importance of security of land rights of IPLCs as an enabling condition to combat climate change and addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss. Therefore, the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities should be 'central' in all the discussions, decisions, and actions relating to climate change, biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals.

Drawing on indigenous and traditional knowledge, innovations, practices, and technologies, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities offer solutions that help humanity cope with these changes. These solutions must be based on the framework of recognition and respect of our rights and responsibilities. Our full and effective participation must be ensured in decision making.

The IIFB would like to propose text recommendations on the following to SBSTTA Document 23-3:

Para. 84

3. *Invites Parties to strengthen their efforts to integrate ecosystem-based approaches into new or updated nationally determined contributions, where appropriate, and when pursuing domestic climate action under the Paris Agreement, including national adaptation plans and other planning processes **with the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities;***

4. *Encourages Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, when designing and implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, to identify and minimize potential risks, and trade-offs **especially for ecologically sensitive ecosystems and***



lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous peoples and local communities, and enhance synergies for biodiversity, making use of existing tools and guidance developed under the Convention on Biological Diversity **with the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**;

6. Requests the Executive Secretary, subject to available resources and in collaboration with relevant organizations, **rights holders, and stakeholders**:

(a) To provide guidance on ways and means to address threats to vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change and **to communities that depend on ecosystem services and functions, including montane regions, polar ecosystems, low-lying islands, coasts, including lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**;

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities have achieved an unprecedented space and role in the UNFCCC with the establishment of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform.

In this regard, the IIFB would like to propose two additional subparagraphs 6 (c) and (d) that reads:

(c) To facilitate the sharing and supporting community led documentation of climate change and customary sustainable use of biodiversity of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, based on their traditional knowledge in accordance with their customary laws;

(d) To urge the Secretariat to initiate collaboration and develop synergies between the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Ad Hoc Open ended Working Group on Article 8(J) and Related Provisions or its successor and other relevant bodies within the CBD.

We ask for party support for our text proposals and will submit them in writing to the Secretariat.

Thank you, Mr. Chair