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Montreal, Canada, 2 - 6 May 2016

Agenda item 6 of the provisional agenda

**Assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan for the Protocol**

Thank you, Mr. Chair,

This statement is made on behalf of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB).

We thank the CBD Secretariat for the comprehensive documents prepared under this Agenda Item.

We are concerned with the taken decisions of Parties on living modified organisms (LMOs), given the fact that many Parties reported having neither mechanisms nor rules that govern such decision-making. The same applies, reducing a domestic budgetary allocation for the operationalization of national biosafety frameworks (NBFs) and implementation of the Protocol.

The parties must understand their responsibility in relation to LMOs, including synthetic biology and its parts, and on this basis develop a corresponding regulatory legislation, normative and legal basics in the field of biosafety and evaluation of various risks associated.

Lack of progress in one of the most important issues - living modified organisms, including parts of synthetic biology raises concerns to us, considering that the monitoring and enforcement systems has not been put in place in one-thirds of Parties. Especially in terms of identifying LMOs or their traits, and taking of measures in cases of release of LMOs, that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

In this context, we consider it necessary to operationalize the compliance committee and their obligation to the Protocol. Decision regarding LMOs specific requirements arising from the possible consequences for the sustainable use of biological diversity need to take into account such as risks to human health, the preservation of endemic species, native seeds and other key stone elements of the ecosystem function , and the possible negative impact on indigenous peoples and local communities, their territory and culture.

Our Recommendations:

40. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation may also wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its eighth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

11. Encourages Parties to continue to enhance capacity for public awareness, education and participation regarding living modified organisms and to integrate public awareness, education and participation, **including indigenous peoples and local communities**, into national initiatives for communication, education and public awareness, initiatives for the



Sustainable Development Goals, initiatives for climate change adaptation and other environmental initiatives;

15. Requests the Executive Secretary:

**(b)** To carry out further capacity-building activities, subject to the availability of resources, on risk assessment, risk management, detection and identification of living modified organisms, liability and redress, and socioeconomic, ***cultural*** considerations, ***effects on health, endemic species and possibility impact on the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.***

Thank you, Mr. Chair.