

IIFB Statement

SBI-3

Agenda Item 8: Cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives

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

Decision 14/30 recognizes the importance of collaboration, cooperation and synergies with the Post 2020 GBF and SDGs, as well as the recognition of the usefulness of the Joint Work Programme on links between biological and cultural diversity.

We therefore recommend that the work on this agenda item should ensure synergies with all relevant organizations and processes, including those working on promoting the link between biodiversity and cultural diversity, such as UNESCO, IUCN and other like-minded initiative, as well as relevant human rights instruments and guidance.

We'd also like to highlight that there are possible opportunities to further work on this with international conventions, such as with WHO on traditional medicine, LCIP platform under the UNFCCC, and the indigenous and local knowledge initiatives under IPBES.

As part of our commitment to the objectives of the Convention, IIFB has convened and participated in many discussions, including the thematic dialogue for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. We therefore further recommend that the results of the dialogue be incorporated in the Post-2020 GBF, to embed contributions of IPLCs in all relevant policy arenas.

We want to highlight that among the recommendations arising from these dialogues is the importance of employing a human rights based approach in the attainment of the CBD objectives and in the implementation of the post-2020 GBF. This is supported by the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, highlighting in his open letter the "...profound importance of implementing a rights-based approach to both the climate and biodiversity crises. A rights-based approach to environmental protection is an obligation, not an option, because of the international human rights commitments made by all States."

In 2019, Global Witness reported that 212 environmental and human rights defenders were killed in the defense of land and environment, a disproportionate percentage of which were indigenous people.

In line with the above points, we propose the following changes in the draft recommendations:

The Conference of the Parties,

(New additional para)

4bis. Requests the Executive Secretary and invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and other relevant international agencies, Parties and other Governments, along with a broad coalition of

partners, to advance, subject to the availability of resources, the Joint Programme of Work on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity, and to report on progress to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and other mechanisms, as appropriate.

6. Urges Parties to continue to take action to enhance synergies in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions, consistent with **relevant international human rights obligations** at the national level.