



WG8J 10

Montreal, Canada, 13-17 December 2017

Closing Statement

The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mohawk for warmly welcoming us to their homeland and the Parties for the support during the four days of work here in cold Montreal during the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions.

WE thank the Secretariat for coordinating the work and the kind contribution of Australia, Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden and New Zealand to the voluntary fund that facilitated our participation to attend the meeting.

In the past years, the Secretariat of the CBD has been collaborating with the IIFB in conducting national and regional capacity building for Indigenous Peoples and local communities with the support of the Japan Biodiversity Fund. These trainings have been very useful, as they have enhanced the capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities to continue contributing to the achievement of the objectives of the Convention.

We urge Parties and other donors to contribute to the voluntary fund to facilitate effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, indigenous women and youth to the voluntary fund and capacity building activities.

Mr./Ms. Chairperson, IIFB is encouraged by the adoption of the Rutzolijirisaxik Voluntary Guidelines for the Repatriation of Traditional Knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Relevant for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity as it will allow IPLCs to recover, strengthen and revitalize our traditional knowledge. In considering the repatriation of traditional knowledge, we ask the Parties to ensure that our free, prior, and informed consent is fully respected in the use and sharing of our knowledge. We also believe that traditional knowledge taken in the past without our free, prior and informed consent should also be included in repatriation, and emphasize that just because traditional knowledge is publicly available does not mean it is in the public domain. In repatriation, we seek respect for our customary laws, protocols, and other cultural principles for the use of traditional knowledge.

The IIFB appreciate the input to date from the Parties into the very important issue of integration of Article 8(j) and related provisions into the work of the Convention. We would welcome continuing, full and genuine dialogue with IIFB members within your Regions. A dialogue based on goodwill, equity and fairness. We continue to urge Parties to facilitate consultation with IPLCs in their regions to incorporate their feedback into the process so that it can be considered by the SCBD to compile information papers for the next SBI meeting in 2018.

We are also appreciative of the efforts by the Convention to provide avenues for cross-cutting engagements with the other UN processes including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



which provides integration points for the work under the Working Group on Article 8j and other bodies of the Convention. We are particularly enthused by the topic for the 'In-depth dialogue on thematic issues and cross-cutting issues' that provided for a discussion on the contribution of Traditional Knowledge to the Sustainable Development Goals. Overall the SDGs provide a refreshing pivot point for our concerns and any efforts in integrating with the Development Agenda is greatly appreciated.

We would like to stress to the Parties the significant role of Indigenous women as the protectors and transmitters of traditional knowledge and keepers of the traditional seeds important for promoting livelihoods and food sovereignty for present and future generations. Their participation in the work of the CBD especially in this meeting, which has kick started engagements of IPLCs on the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework. It is important to encourage their continued engagement in the work of the convention through *bona fide* and inclusive dialogues.

In recognition of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples we are encouraged by the Parties recognition of the valuable contributions that our TK provides to the understanding and management of our ecosystems and we look forward to continuing this work with all of you.

Thank you.