



WG8J 11

Montreal, Canada 20 - 22 November 2019

Opening Statement

Thank you, Mr Chairperson,

I'm giving this presentation on behalf of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, IIFB. We would like to acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Mohawk People. We are grateful for their warm welcome, and for bringing our minds together to offer greetings to all our relatives in the natural world.

There have been many discussions amongst IIFB members to ensure that an enhanced participation mechanism is embedded in any option that might be put forward as a preferred model, however, more deep and meaningful discussions needs to take place for a fully integrated, all empowering and inclusive model to be recommended.

IIFB has proposed the establishment of a new permanent body. However, we are mindful of the challenges that exist at a time when our focus is keenly on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. For this reason, with the support of the Parties, we are seeking to do this starting at next year's COP15, and to culminate at COP16.

Recent reports by UN experts and human rights organisations document an alarming increase in violent attacks against and criminalisation of indigenous peoples, women and youth defending their rights to their traditional lands, waters and natural resources.

Climate change poses threats and dangers to the survival of indigenous communities worldwide, even though indigenous peoples contribute the least to greenhouse emissions. Indigenous peoples are vital to, and active in, the many ecosystems that inhabit our lands and waters and territories and therefore help to enhance the resilience of these ecosystems within.

Mr Chair, in the next couple of weeks in Tiohtiá:ke, we will be discussing the vital role that Indigenous Peoples and local communities play in the implementation of the work of the convention and its protocols. Progress has been made, but it's not enough. For this reason, IIFB recommends that Article 8(j) and related provisions are enhanced in order to achieve the objectives related to the post 2020 Framework, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The in-depth dialogue will highlight the contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities traditional knowledge to the work of the Convention. We look forward to participating actively in the interactive dialogue.

Adequate time needs to be given for statements by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, to be read in full. The IIFB requests, that when we make textual proposals all Chairs of the meetings explicitly call for Parties' support.



Lastly, the IIFB thanks the donors for their financial contributions, which enables us to participate in these CBD meetings. We also thank Canada for supporting the Indigenous Peoples and local communities Dialogue on the Post 2020 Framework workshop.

Thank you, Mr Chair.