



WG8J 11

Montreal, Canada 20 - 22 November 2019

Closing Statement

Thank you, Mr. Chair

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

We appreciate what was said by the Executive Secretary of the CBD.

Going forward, we have some recommendations based on the findings from Local Bio-diversity Outlooks. Accomplishments under Target 18 based on national reports have been limited to date. Partnerships with Indigenous peoples and local communities will greatly enhance the achievement of the objectives of the Convention, beyond the Target 18 and the Article 8(j) and related provisions.

With regard to the next in-depth dialogue that discusses indigenous issues to have more traditional knowledge-holders and indigenous experts on its panel.

It is essential that Indigenous Peoples continue to be engaged in the work of the CBD as full partners. In this regard, we welcome the recommendation for a twelfth meeting of the Working Group and urge all the Parties to also support the decision to convene an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Article 8(j) and other provisions related to IPLCs. We look forward to contributing to the development of a new work program and permanent institutional arrangements--for discussion by the AHTEG and decision at COP 16.

Streamlining a human rights approach, including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples across the Convention is an imperative—paying particular attention to the rights of women and youth. The vision of “living in harmony with nature” cannot be achieved if the collective actions of IPLCs are always at risk, and environmental human rights defenders are discriminated and criminalized.

We call for the continued patience and support of Parties in ensuring that a stronger and more robust post 2020 global biodiversity framework will be crafted.

We would also like to thank the Parties who have contributed to the voluntary fund for us to engage in all the processes, and invite other Parties to support this endeavor as well.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.