



**Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
11-15 octubre 2021 and 25 abril-8 mayo 2022
Kunming, China**

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

**Statement on behalf of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), delivered by
Lucy Mullenkei, co-chair of the IIFB**

The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity IIFB take this golden opportunity to congratulate the COP 15 presidency representatives of China, H.E. Mr. Huang Runqiu, Minister of the Ecology and the Environment and President of the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

We thank Egypt for supporting Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities during and all through COP 14 and the intersessional work period to date.

The upcoming negotiations and adoption of the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework could present a historic opportunity that builds on recent progress by Indigenous Peoples and local communities as rightsholders and key partners in conservation endeavors. There is overwhelming evidence that show that we have historically been – and continue to be – the best stewards of nature. These studies reaffirm that there is no way the world can effectively conserve nature and ensure real transformative change without recognizing, respecting and centering the rights, governance systems, leaderships and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The Convention on Biological Diversity has adopted several decisions and established participatory mechanisms and practices for Indigenous Peoples in CBD meetings, which are considered best practices in the UN system. IIFB reminds the CBD of these decisions and asks for a clear commitment to ensure that



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we will be able to fully, **equitably** and effectively participate in the next meetings in January, including during contact groups, and all throughout the post2020 process.

We note that there have been some positive improvements in the First Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The IIFB appreciated the references to FPIC in Target 20, traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources in Target 13, customary sustainable use in Target 9, rights over lands, territories, and resources in Target 21, and equity in Target 3. IIFB also welcomes the inclusion of rights-based approaches in the theory of change and implementation conditions and notes the language can be further strengthened through explicit recognition of **human rights**, and specifically the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

IIFB firmly believes that for this framework to be successful and inclusive will require further improvement. For example, the explicit recognition of the lands, territories and waters of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and support for our conservation initiatives in Target 3, as well as respect for our rights to customary sustainable use in Target 5.

IIFB would like to thank Parties who have already expressed their support for these proposals during the virtual meeting of the 3rd Working Group Post-2020 GBF. We thank all the Donors who supported IPLC to attend the various meetings and working groups and extend our gratitude to UN agencies such as UNDP for the support of the process at the different country levels .

Thank you