



**Third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity  
Framework  
23 August - 3 September 2021  
Online**

**Agenda item 5. Digital sequence information on genetic resources**

Statement on behalf of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), delivered by María Yolanda Terán Maigua, Andes Chinchasuyu

Thank you, Mr. Chair. I make these comments on behalf of the IIFB.

Work on DSI has made progress, but needs improvement to meet the needs of Indigenous peoples and local communities, women, and youth, as addressed in the following points:

1. DSI must be brought into the post-2020 framework of the Convention to support the third pillar of the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing.
2. Traditional knowledge is fundamental for implementing the Convention. We disagree with the AHTEG conclusion that TK is not part of DSI. Traditional knowledge provides leads to sequencing, discovery, and innovation. Many genetic resource values, including information, are embodied in genetic sequences through cultivation, breeding, and modification of the environment. Rights for breeds, varieties, biological samples, and derivatives should extend to embodied traditional knowledge. Ignoring these essential linkages undermines the CBD, the Nagoya Protocol, and the rights of IPLCs.
3. Indigenous peoples view the world as sacred that should be treated with respect as a gift from Mother Earth. This includes genetic materials and information. IPLCs worldviews should be included in DSI options. These issues are connected to IPLCs human rights.
4. The IIFB supports science that is open and respectful and agrees that scientific research should not be unduly hindered. However, DSI carries risks and benefits. There are risks both in research and in the implementation of results. Open research and applications must be balanced with reasonable limitations, precautionary mechanisms, and safeguards.
5. The IIFB believes that a hybrid approach may be acceptable but must be conditional. Option 1 of full integration with the CBD and Nagoya Protocol, including FPIC and MAT, must be applied for the use of biological samples acquired from IPLCs lands, territories, and waters or where traditional knowledge is directly accessed. Embodied traditional knowledge clearly exists in genetic materials that are not confined to IPLC areas, such as through natural gene flow, ex situ collections, migrating species, and shifting species under climate change. Benefit sharing without control over access may be acceptable in some of these cases. IPLCs must be involved in their determination. Multilateral benefit sharing cannot be used to circumvent FPIC and MAT for identifiable sources of DSI and requires due diligence and monitoring and tracking where feasible.
6. IPLCs need considerable capacity building to provide meaningful input and make informed decisions on DSI. There is a priority need to create culturally appropriate materials to explain DSI to IPLCs and to relevant stakeholders. Researchers also need capacity building on IPLC rights, worldviews, and perspectives.



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Any benefit sharing must be targeted to fulfil needs and aspirations as defined by IPLCs. DSI must be consistent with the framework of living in harmony with nature and the human rights-based approach as affirmed in the framework.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.