Mr. Chair,

This statement is made on behalf of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB).

The central role of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in achieving the CBD objectives and the biodiversity goals and targets was clear in the IPBES Global Assessment. The IIFB agrees that NBSAPs continue as the main implementation mechanism under the Convention. In the coming period, we would like to see NBSAPs complemented by Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. As we move for a more integrated and cooperative approaches in the implementation of the Convention, the full and effective participation of IPLCs in the planning, development, implementation, monitoring, assessment and review of the NBSAPs is essential, including through community-based monitoring and information systems (CBMIS).

We recognize that there is a limited integration and mainstreaming in global processes and national level processes. The NBSAPs should be aligned and harmonized with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and all relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

The IIFB agrees that the reporting process should be significantly strengthened. Participatory mechanisms for the production of national reports should be explored and established to ensure engagement of IPLCs, women, youth and all relevant actors. On our part, we are using Local Biodiversity Outlooks (LBO) and LBO online to be reporting on our commitments and contributions.

Furthermore, as we noted in our opening statement, progress in implementation requires that the Convention becomes much stronger in ensuring that its decisions are given effect. A robust accountability and compliance mechanism should be developed, drawing lessons from relevant UN compliance mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review of the human rights system. Greater accountability through regular reviews and peer-review mechanisms of national reports and transparent societal scrutiny of NBSAP implementation is essential.

Thank you.