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INFORMATION NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	First Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (SB8J-1) (Panama City, Panama, 27-30 October 2025) - Statements by the EU and its Member States

Delegations will find in the Annex, for information, a compilation of statements delivered on behalf of the European Union and its Member States at the abovementioned meeting.

**Outcome of the First Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions
(SB8J-1)**

(Panama City, Panama, 27-30 October 2025)

- Statements by the EU and its Member States –

Agenda item 3: Strategies for mobilizing resources to ensure the availability of and access to financial resources and funding, as well as other means of implementation, including capacity-building, development and technical support for indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth, to support the full implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Thank you, Madam co-chair,

The European Union (EU) and its Member States wish to thank the Secretariat for preparing this important in-depth dialogue and the panelists for their contributions.

The EU and its Member States reiterate the critical role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in achieving the objectives of the Convention and the goals and targets of the Framework.

Strengthening access to adequate finance from all sources for Indigenous Peoples and local communities is essential for inclusive and effective implementation of the Framework.

The EU and its Member States therefore acknowledge the need for comprehensive, fair, inclusive and equitable access to financing sources by Parties, stakeholders and rights holders in particular Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including women and youth.

We welcome that the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, the GEF Trust Fund, the Cali Fund and others provide valuable opportunities for biodiversity finance that can support the priorities of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. We particularly acknowledge the GBFF's aspirational programming share of 20% at the portfolio level by 2030 for this purpose and the Cali Fund's commitment to allocate at least 50% of resources to support the self-identified needs, where appropriate and according to national circumstances.

The EU and its Member States however also recognise that, despite the important role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and in the achievement of the Framework, they continue to lack adequate access to funding, including direct access for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The EU and its Member States reaffirm their commitment to enhancing Indigenous Peoples and local communities' access to biodiversity finance and the call upon Parties and other relevant actors to improve access to and increase financial resources for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including women and youth from all sources and to prioritise sustained capacity-building as a key enabler for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to access, manage, and implement funding effectively to support the implementation of the Framework.

The EU and its Member States support the draft recommendations, including the proposed theme of "Strategies and tools to support the application of a human rights-based approach in the implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030 and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework"

We will submit an amendment in writing on adding a preambular text referring to Decision 16/34.

Thank you, Madam co-chair.

Agenda item 4: Modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Thank you, Madam Co-Chair,

Thank you, Mr Co-Chair,

One of the major successes of CBD COP 16 is the historic decision 16/5, in which the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity decided to establish a third subsidiary body with a mandate to provide advice on matters of relevance to indigenous peoples and local communities within the scope of the Convention and its Protocols. The European Union and its Member States came to Panama to take part in the first meeting of the SB8j to further elaborate and finalize its modus operandi.

We were ready to accept the modus operandi after negotiations in several contact groups in Cali. We therefore consider the draft presented in information document 3 as more advanced and will be reintroducing solutions found in this document into the draft recommendation contained in SB8j/1/3 to build on the progress achieved in Cali.

The European Union and its Member States value the established procedures and practices of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and are of the view, that meaningful, inclusive and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities as agreed on in Task 6.1 of the Programme of Work on Article 8(j) a year ago in Cali, is a prerequisite of an operational SB8j.

At the same time, we acknowledge, that the Convention is party-led, and so are the three subsidiary bodies. We would like to see the newly established body operating effectively and cost-efficiently. We also see the need to respect the mandates of the three SB's, other Ad-Hoc Advisory Bodies and the COP.

And lastly, the EU and its 27 Member States wish to adopt a long-lasting modus operandi, which should not be limited to promoting the implementation of the programme of work contained in the annex to decision 16/4, but more general to support implementation of Article 8 (j) and other provisions of the convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities.

We will submit our amendments in writing.

Thank you, Co-Chairs.

Agenda item 5a: Guidelines on indigenous and traditional territories to support the protection and restoration practices led by indigenous peoples and local communities in line with Targets 2 and 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (Task 1.1)

Agenda item 5b: Guidelines for the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and of resource use in spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments (Task 1.2)

Thank you Chair,

The EU and its Member States welcome the COP decision 16/4 on a new programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities to 2030 and strongly support its swift implementation.

The EU and its Member States support the development of guidelines to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the implementation of Targets 2 and 3 of the GBF and welcome an in depth discussion of this. We thank the Secretariat and those who contributed for the proposed guidelines, which are ambitious, detailed, and in line with the guiding principles of the Programme of Work.

We support the overall outline of the guidelines in their reference to the targets of the KM GBF. We can accept merging tasks 1.1 and 1.2 of the PoW into one set of guidelines, insofar as its main aim is recalled: that is, to strengthen the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions, and enhance full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the overall implementation of KM GBF.

However, we see the need to address certain general issues.

The EU and its Member States support the recognition of ITTs as such, as well as where they contribute to effective conservation and management of biodiversity in the context of implementing Target 3. The EU and its Member States have some questions regarding para 26 as it is currently formulated and are open to discuss the intentions of the proposal and look for solutions that address these concerns.

Furthermore, language on financial support in the guidelines should be in line with the purpose of element 8 of the PoW and the decisions 16/4 and 16/34.

Finally, we support the initiatives set out in task 5.1 of the Programme of Work. A system of monitoring on a global level does not currently exist, and the development of a global registry on ITTs, such as mentioned in para 53, would require further clarification. There are in particular questions regarding its establishment in the context of the CBD, the value added of a global registry, and how the mechanism would work.

We will submit our amendments in writing and look forward to the discussions under this agenda item.

Thank you, Chair.

Agenda item 5c: Process to review and update the Voluntary Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts Within the Context of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention (Task 5.4)

Thank you Chair,

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework marked a milestone in global environmental policy, also because of its transformative character and the prominent roles that indigenous peoples and local communities as well as traditional knowledge, innovations and practices play. Therefore, we believe, that the Voluntary Glossary of Key Terms and Concepts within the Context of Article 8(j) and Related Provisions needs to be revised and updated.

Although, it might be tempting to engage in discussions on the terms and concepts as such already during this meeting, we support to focus our deliberations on the process for the review and update.

The European Union and its 27 Member States generally support the proposed process outlined in Annex I and we support giving the task to an ad hoc technical expert group to formulate technical advice and proposals on which elements of the glossary should be reviewed or updated and submit reviewed and updated elements of the glossary for consideration to the second meeting of SB8j.

We are of the view, that sufficient flexibility should be given regarding the AHTEG's composition, so that broad representation and expertise can be assured, depending on the nominations from indigenous peoples and local communities, parties, and relevant stakeholders. However, if the AHTEG sees the need to invite additional expertise on certain topics, this should be allowed for. It might further be useful, that the Co-Chairs of the SB8j are invited to participate, ex officio.

Moreover, we are of the view, that the AHTEG shall conduct its work by electronic means and, if resources allow, may also meet once in person.

We will submit our amendments in writing.

Thank you.

Agenda item 6: Provision of advice on traditional knowledge to the global report

Thank you chair,

EU and its Member States welcome the input received to CBD Notification 2025-100 on case studies and other information on relevant traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technology of Indigenous Peoples and local communities for the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the GBF.

The EU and its Member States support the draft recommendations, however, propose stronger wording to ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the development of NBSAPs and to include in national reports relevant information on traditional knowledge and therefore propose to use ‘Urges’ rather than ‘encourage’.

Similarly, to properly signal the relevance of the case studies and other information received through CBD Notification 2025-100, the EU and its Member States propose to use ‘Welcomes’ instead of ‘Takes note of’.

The EU and its Member States remain open to the possibility of engaging a reflexion on how to allow that SB8J contributes directly to the global review process and its Global Report. This discussion is directly linked to the SBSTTA-27 agenda item 3.

Agenda item 7: Recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Thank you chair,

EU and its Member States support the draft recommendations proposed by the Secretariat, including taking note of the recommendations emanating from the Forum’s 23rd and 24th sessions, as well as requesting the Executive Secretary of the Convention to continue to inform the Forum of developments of mutual interest and to provide information to the Forum about relevant activities undertaken under the Convention.
