



## PRESS RELEASE

### Governments agree on the contribution of traditional knowledge to global biodiversity policy

- *Guidelines agreed on for the repatriation of traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities held by museums, botanical gardens and others facilitates*
- *Delegates recognized the contribution of the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities to the implementation of the Convention as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*
- *Future arrangements discussed to further strengthen the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in the implementation of the Convention*

**16 DECEMBER 2017** – Delegates to the tenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed on a set of recommendations related to the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The recommendations from the meeting will be sent to the Conference of the Parties at the 2018 UN Biodiversity Conference<sup>1</sup> being held in Egypt in 2018.

“The proceedings this week demonstrate that indigenous peoples and local communities remain at the very heart of the Convention, and that their effective participation is needed to help save and preserve the flora and fauna of the world for future generations” said Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. “I believe the unique composition and working methods of the Working Group are an embodiment of the partnerships we need if we are to succeed in our mission to halt biodiversity loss and achieve a sustainable balance of human activities with nature” ”

#### **The Rutzolijirisaxik Voluntary Guidelines for the Repatriation of Traditional Knowledge**

The Working Group finalized the development of the Rutzolijirisaxik Voluntary Guidelines for the Repatriation of Traditional Knowledge. The name ‘Rutzolijirisaxik’, given by the indigenous Maya peoples of the midwestern highlands in Guatemala, means “the significance of returning to the place of origin”. Repatriation of traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities held by museums, botanical gardens and others facilitates the recovery of traditional knowledge relevant for the conservation

---

<sup>1</sup>Fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, to be held 10-22 November 2018 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

and sustainable use of biodiversity. The guidelines will be considered by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention at the 2018 UN Biodiversity Conference<sup>2</sup> being held in Egypt in 2018.

### **Glossary of relevant key terms and concepts**

Another outcome of the meeting was that delegates finalized a draft glossary of terms and concepts within the context of Article 8(j), including “traditional knowledge” and “indigenous peoples and local communities community conservation areas”. The glossary is to be considered and adopted by the Conference of the Parties at the 2018 UN Biodiversity Conference.

### **The contribution of collective actions of indigenous peoples and local communities**

The Working Group also considered methodologies and guidance for identifying, monitoring and assessing the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities to the implementation of the Convention, including having such contributions reflected in official reports. The guidance will be finalized at the second meeting of the Convention’s Subsidiary Body on Implementation, set to take place in July 2018 in Montreal, QC, in Canada.

### **Safeguards in Biodiversity Financing Mechanisms**

In addition, delegates discussed how Parties, other governments, international and business organizations, and other stakeholders can take the Voluntary Guidelines on Safeguards in Biodiversity Financing Mechanism into account when selecting, designing and implementing biodiversity financing mechanisms. The recommendation will be also considered by the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

### **Contribution of the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

An in-depth dialogue was held with panelists, representing Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, the United Nations and scientists, on their experiences and recommendations for the contribution of traditional knowledge for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Future of the Working Group on Article 8(j)**

With a view to further strengthening the role of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention at all levels, delegates discussed the future of the Working Group and its work programme for the post-2020 period. The Working Group prepared a recommendation on different options the Working Group and its future work for consideration by the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

WG8J documents and Policy Brief available at: [www.cbd.int/conferences/sbstta-wg8j](http://www.cbd.int/conferences/sbstta-wg8j)

### **The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 196 Parties so far, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena

Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 171 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 104 Parties. For more information visit: [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int). For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 287 7025 or at [david.ainsworth@cbd.int](mailto:david.ainsworth@cbd.int); or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at [johan.hedlund@cbd.int](mailto:johan.hedlund@cbd.int).

-----