



**MESSAGE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY,  
BRAULIO FERREIRA DE SOUZA DIAS,**

*on the occasion of*

**FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES  
(UNPFII 15).**

**10 May 2016**

**Agenda item 4. Implementation of the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum with reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

Distinguishes Delegates, Elders, Members of the  
UNPFII, indigenous sisters and brothers,

I would like to commence by acknowledging the Traditional peoples of Turtle Island, where this meeting is held, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

On behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, I am pleased to provide a brief update on the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Regarding the theme of this year's session, although the CBD does not work specifically on "conflict, peace and resolution", the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP) has adopted several international standards, guidelines and Protocols for Governments and others, of relevance to indigenous peoples. Such standards and guidelines provide for legal clarity and minimal standards and contribute to peace and avoidance of conflicts. It has, for example, adopted:

- The Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines for the Conduct of Cultural, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment assessments regarding Developments Proposed to Take Place on, or which are Likely to Impact on, Sacred Sites and on Lands and Waters Traditionally Occupied or Used by Indigenous and Local Communities<sup>1</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> See Decision VII/16, Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines for the Conduct of Cultural, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment regarding Developments Proposed to Take Place on, or which are Likely to Impact on, Sacred Sites and on Lands and Waters Traditionally Occupied or Used by Indigenous and Local Communities  
<https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=12308>

- The Tkarihwaí:ri Code of Ethical Conduct to Ensure Respect for the Cultural and Intellectual Heritage of Indigenous and Local Communities<sup>2</sup>. The code provide guidance in activities/interactions with indigenous and local communities and for the development of local, national, or regional codes of ethical conduct, with the aim of promoting respect, preservation and maintenance of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity<sup>3</sup>.
- The Global Plan of Action for Customary Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity<sup>4</sup>, which has as its objective to promote, within the framework of the Convention, a just implementation of Article 10 (c), which guarantees the rights of indigenous peoples to the customary sustainable use of biodiversity.
- The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization<sup>5</sup>. The Protocol contains significant provisions relating to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources held by indigenous and local communities, as well as to genetic resources held by indigenous and local communities where the rights of these communities over these resources have been recognized.

Of great significance to indigenous peoples, the Conference of the Parties at its Thirteenth meeting (COP 13) in December this year, in Cancun, Mexico, is to consider the adoption of:

- Guidelines for the development of national measures to ensure the free, prior informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities for accessing their knowledge, innovations and practices, the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use and application of such knowledge, innovations and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and for reporting and preventing unlawful appropriation of traditional knowledge; and
- Guidelines for the repatriation of indigenous and traditional knowledge, in order to assist indigenous peoples in knowledge and cultural restoration.

In preparation for the COP 13, the Secretariat in partnership with the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity is implementing, thanks to the generous financial support of the Government of Japan, and others donors, a training programme carried out in 5 regions in partnership with indigenous organizations in Latin America, Asia, Pacific, Africa, and the Caribbean. In each of these regions, the training includes the development of Community Protocols, operationalizing indicators on Traditional Knowledge and Customary Sustainable Use through community based monitoring and information systems, and implementation of the global Plan of Action on Customary Sustainable Use.

The aim is to train trainers from organizations of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), and governments,<sup>6</sup> and to support them in facilitating capacity development activities on these three areas at the national, subnational and local levels, in their home countries.

All these instruments and activities will contribute to the achievement of Aichi Target 18 of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011-2020 which states that by 2020, the traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, and fully integrated and

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<sup>2</sup> See Decision X/42.the Tkarihwaí:ri Code of Ethical Conduct to Ensure Respect for the Cultural and Intellectual Heritage of Indigenous and Local Communities at: <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=12308>

<sup>4</sup> See Decision XII/12, B, the Global Plan of Action for Customary Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-csu-en.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Refer to <https://www.cbd.int/abs/>

<sup>6</sup> Note that preference is given to government trainers/representatives from least developed country Parties and Small Island developing State Parties. Additionally, priority is given to national focal points for Article 8(j) and related provisions and/or those working on access and benefit sharing, including the Nagoya Protocol.

reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels, particularly at local and national level.

I also take this opportunity to inform you that the Secretariat, together with the Government of Mexico who is the host of COP 13, and UNDP and UNESCO, indigenous peoples and local communities are in the process of negotiating a comprehensive IPLCs programme, which will run throughout COP 13 in December, in Mexico. The programme includes preparatory meetings for indigenous women, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, followed by a multi-day programme, central to the COP, which will examine the collective contribution of IPLCs towards the themes of the COP, which are mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity across relevant sectors, including agriculture, forests and fisheries and its implications of the post-2015 United Nations development agenda. I do hope many of you can join us.

In finishing, the SCBD would like to recognize the crucial contribution of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) and its organizations in the meetings and activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity over the last 20 years, since 1996.

Thank you.

**End.**

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