



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



**International Treaty
on Plant Genetic Resources
for Food and Agriculture**

**INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

**SIXTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP
ON FARMERS' RIGHTS**

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**Aspects 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 relevant to the implementation of
Article 9 of the International Treaty**

Executive Summary

This document provides information of aspects of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Farmers' Rights (AHTEG-FR) with information on the Programme of Work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) related to indigenous peoples and local communities, recently adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its Sixteenth meeting (COP16),¹ and which are relevant to the implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty. The document also highlights possible areas and scope for future collaboration, as appropriate.

¹www.cbd.int/traditional/doc/cbd-8j-brochure-en.pdf

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its Tenth Session, the Governing Body requested the Secretary to strengthen, to the extent feasible, collaboration between the International Treaty and other units and partners that work for the promotion of Farmers' Rights within and outside FAO, and the broader United Nations including with international human rights bodies and the relevant targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF or GBF), in order to promote the protection and realization of Farmers' Rights in accordance with Article 9 of the International Treaty.²

2. This information document outlines elements of the Programme of Work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) related to indigenous peoples and local communities, as recently adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its Sixteenth meeting (COP16),³ and which are relevant to the implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty. It also highlights the possible areas and scope for future collaboration, as appropriate.

II. ELEMENTS OF DECISIONS 16/4 OF COP16

3. The objective of the programme of work on Article 8(j) is to promote, within the scope of and in line with the objectives of the CBD, the implementation of Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities (Programme of work on Article 8(j), as well as the KMGBF, at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels, and to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all stages and levels of their implementation, thereby ensuring an ongoing recognition of the close association that indigenous peoples and local communities have with biological diversity, and the Convention and its Protocols.

4. The Programme of Work on Article 8(j) comprises eight elements, as follows:

Element 1. *Conservation and restoration.*

To promote and support the conservation, protection and restoration of biological diversity led by indigenous peoples and local communities, thereby contributing to the implementation of relevant goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Element 2. *Sustainable use of biological diversity.*

To promote, encourage and ensure the sustainable use of biological diversity, inter alia, to respect and protect the customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities, thereby contributing to the implementation of Article 10(c) of the Convention, the Plan of Action on Customary Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity and relevant goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Element 3. *Sharing of benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources*

To promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources, thereby contributing, inter alia, to the implementation of relevant goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Element 4. *Knowledge and culture*

To support the transmission and protection of traditional knowledge, including to future generations, and ensure that traditional knowledge and other knowledge systems are valued

² [Resolution 7/2023](#), paragraph 14.

³ www.cbd.int/traditional/doc/cbd-8j-brochure-en.pdf

equally, thereby contributing to the implementation of Article 8(j) of the Convention and relevant goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Element 5. *Strengthening implementation and monitoring progress*

To contribute to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework through the full and effective implementation of decisions, principles and guidelines of relevance to indigenous peoples and local communities, and to strengthen the integration of Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention in the work undertaken under the Convention and its Protocols.

Element 6. *Full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities*

To enable the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women, girls and youth among them, in decision-making related to biodiversity and the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Element 7. *Human rights-based approach*

To contribute to the enhancement of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in line with a human rights-based approach, in accordance with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Element 8. *Access, including direct access, to funding for indigenous peoples and local communities for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity*

To promote the implementation of the relevant targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in particular by supporting access, including direct access, to funding for indigenous peoples and local communities in the context of national policies, plans, projects, programmes or systems, as appropriate.

III. ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON ARTICLE 8(J) RELEVANT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 9 OF THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY

5. The Appendix to this document provides a summary of the tasks under each element of the Programme of Work on Article 8(j) of the CBD, and relevance to the implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty, with the possible areas and scope of collaboration between the two agreements and their Secretariats.
6. Discussions for the renewal of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the two Secretariats is ongoing and is expected to be finalised in this biennium, which would include the complementary and mutually supportive implementation of Article 9 of the International Treaty and Article 8(j) of the CBD.

Appendix 1

The elements of the Programme of Work on Article 8(j) of the CBD and the possible areas and scope of collaboration between the the International Treaty and the CBD up to 2030.

Programme of Work on Article 8(j): Elements and Tasks	Possible areas and scope of collaboration
Element 1. Conservation and restoration	
1.1 Develop guidelines ⁴ with the full and effective participation ⁵ of indigenous peoples and local communities, to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the implementation of Targets 2 and 3 of the Framework, including on indigenous and traditional territories, to support the protection and restoration practices led by indigenous peoples and local communities.	Secretariat's participation in the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j)
1.3 Promote the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities without formal access to land, including in urban areas, and partner with them in the conservation, protection and restoration of biodiversity and in creating and maintaining blue and green spaces	Compilation of measures and practices that support both Article 8(j) and Article 9 of the International Treaty Promote the <i>Inventory</i> and the use of the <i>Options</i>
1.4 Engage and collaborate with indigenous peoples and local communities to improve the outcomes of management actions addressing the direct drivers of biodiversity loss. ⁶	Promotion of Article 9 of the International Treaty within the context of the CBD Compilation of measures and practices that support both Article 8(j) and Article 9 of the International Treaty
Element 2. Sustainable use of biological diversity	
2.1 Incorporate customary sustainable use practices or policies, in accordance with the Plan of Action on Customary Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity and with the full and effective participation and	Promotion of Article 9 of the International Treaty

⁴ For the purpose of the present programme of work, "guidelines" refers to voluntary guidelines.

⁵ For the purpose of the present programme of work, "participation" should be understood as being full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive

⁶ As identified in The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services published by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in 2019.

leadership of indigenous peoples and local communities, as appropriate, into national biodiversity strategies and action plans.	
2.2 Promote and strengthen community-based initiatives developed by indigenous peoples and local communities, including in collaboration with other actors, that support and contribute to the sustainable use of biological diversity and to the respect for and protection of the customary sustainable use of biological diversity.	Promotion of Article 9 of the International Treaty Compilation of measures and practices that support both Article 8(j) and Article 9 of the International Treaty
2.3 Support initiatives led by indigenous peoples and local communities that address the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change, based on their traditional knowledge, innovations, technologies and practices of customary sustainable use of biodiversity.	Promotion of Article 9 of the International Treaty Compilation of measures and practices that support both Article 8(j) and Article 9 of the International Treaty
2.4 Support the livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities through activities that promote the customary sustainable use of biodiversity	Promotion of Article 9 of the International Treaty Compilation of measures and practices that support both Article 8(j) and Article 9 of the International Treaty
Element 3. Sharing of benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and digital sequence information of genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources	
3.1 Develop a plan of action in relation to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with the genetic resources held by indigenous peoples and local communities to support the implementation of the Convention, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization and the multilateral mechanism for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources. Such a plan of action should include capacity-building activities and support the development and use of existing biocultural community protocols, knowledge exchange platforms, technical and legal support, dialogue and collaboration between users and providers within the framework of biocultural community protocols, the implementation of the Mo'otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines and technical and legal assistance, taking those guidelines into account.	Secretariat's participation in the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) meetings Conduct of scientific and background studies

<p>3.2 Undertake studies on the experiences of indigenous peoples and local communities on access and benefit-sharing related to the utilization of genetic resources, traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources, identifying best practices and lessons learned.</p>	<p>Collaboration with the CBD Secretariat Conduct of scientific and background studies</p>
<p>Element 4. Knowledge and culture</p>	
<p>4.2 Promote the implementation, strengthening and dissemination of the joint programme of work on the links between biological and cultural diversity.</p>	<p>Collaboration with the CBD Secretariat</p>
<p>4.4 Undertake capacity-building and development and awareness-raising activities on the basis of the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development and the knowledge management strategy to support the implementation of the Framework to promote the role of traditional knowledge in guiding the management of biodiversity.</p>	<p>Joint capacity building/capacity development, training activities</p>
<p>4.5 Create, strengthen and support a global network of national focal points on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention to support the implementation of the Convention at the national and international levels, including the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.</p>	<p>Promotion of Article 9 of the International Treaty</p>
<p>4.6 Organize the exchange of knowledge and learning platforms to promote the implementation of the tasks in the present programme of work.</p>	<p>Joint capacity building/capacity development, training activities Compilation of measures and practices that support both Article 8(j) and Article 9 of the International Treaty</p>
<p>4.7 Promote the co-production by indigenous peoples and local communities, scientists and other stakeholders of new knowledge necessary for the resilience, adaptation and continuation of customary sustainable use and biodiversity conservation practices under rapid environmental change, such as climate change, land- and sea-use change, invasive alien species and pollution.</p>	<p>Collaboration with the CBD Secretariat Conduct scientific and background studies, and or include reference to Article 9 of the International Treaty Compilation of measures and practices that support both Article 8(j) and Article 9 of the International Treaty</p>

Element 5. Strengthening implementation and monitoring progress	
5.1 Promote the wider application, implementation and monitoring at the national level of adopted plans of action, guidelines and principles.	Promotion of Article 9 of the International Treaty
5.2 Develop guidelines for the establishment of innovative incentive schemes for indigenous peoples and local communities to preserve and maintain their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices for the application thereof in programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.	Promotion of Article 9 of the International Treaty
Element 6. Full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities	
6.1 Implement and further develop the enhanced participation mechanisms used by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention	Secretariat's participation in the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) meetings
6.2 Ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the development, revision and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports, and strengthen partnerships and collaboration with indigenous peoples and local communities, recognizing their collective actions and contributions for the implementation of the Convention.	Promotion of Article 9 of the International Treaty
Element 7. To contribute to the enhancement of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in line with a human rights-based approach, in accordance with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.	Promotion of Article 9 of the International Treaty
7.1 In collaboration with the relevant United Nations bodies, as well as indigenous peoples and local communities, develop guidelines to contribute to the enhancement of the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in line with a human rights-based approach, consistent with relevant international obligations and instruments	Secretariat's participation in the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) meetings
7.2 Support and promote, as appropriate, traditional land tenure and securing land tenure for indigenous peoples and local communities for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in accordance with national legislation.	Promotion of Article 9 of the International Treaty
7.3 Develop guidelines on the implementation of Target 22 of the Framework, including with regard to the full protection of environmental human rights defenders, in particular the protection of women from all forms of gender-based discrimination and violence, in relation to control, ownership and access to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, as reflected in the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030).	Secretariat's participation in the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) meetings

Element 8. Access, including direct access, to funding for indigenous peoples and local communities for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity	
8.2 Identify gaps, promote good practices and further explore options for the development or improvement of existing policies, mechanisms and other appropriate initiatives and measures to enhance access, including direct access, to funding by indigenous peoples and local communities for collective actions on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, in particular for actions to be led by women and youth.	Promotion of Article 9 of the International Treaty