



Key issues

to be addressed at COP16



We cannot ensure the protection of biodiversity without their guardians: the Indigenous Peoples. Indigenous women are ready to contribute to decision-making processes at all levels. Coming from the 7 socio-cultural regions, they have mobilized to bring their agenda forward in Cali.

Over 820 Indigenous women, youth, leaders, academics and allies from Latin America, North America, Africa, and Asia joined the 5 webinars co-hosted with the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network Latin America and the International Indigenous Women's Forum. The webinars represented an opportunity to build the capacity and knowledge of Indigenous women and youth for their participation in COP16 taking place from October 21st to November 1st, 2024 in Cali, Colombia, discussing the main agenda items and the role of Indigenous Peoples in the upcoming negotiations:





**These are some key issues
that will be discussed at the
COP16:**



1

Countries reporting progress: During the COP16, countries will report on how they have translated the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's](#) goals, set at COP15 into national actions. They will present their progress in implementing the biodiversity framework and concrete national Action Plans.





2

The Gender Plan of Action: The national biodiversity plans should include the gender perspective in their policies, and consider mechanisms of implementation for strengthening the participation of Indigenous women. It is necessary to elaborate national indicators for the participation of Indigenous women and girls that are culturally appropriate. Capacity building is essential to continue informing Indigenous women on the ongoing global discussions on biodiversity so they are ready to advocate for their rights and participate in decision-making processes.



Mobilization of funding to implement the Biodiversity Framework. Particularly, the discussion on Direct Funding for Indigenous Peoples is one of the most crucial issues in the COP16 negotiations. After launching the [Global Biodiversity Framework Fund](#), including the goal of ensuring at least 20% - aspirational - of its funding for conservation actions carried out by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, at COP16, there are critical objectives to pursue:

 Efforts to mobilize resources for Indigenous Peoples; Explore options for developing policies and initiatives to ensure access to funds for Indigenous Peoples at the national and international levels

 Identify and promote good practices related to Indigenous Peoples' access to funding.



Important discussions for Indigenous Peoples on resource mobilization: i) whether to create a dedicated financing mechanism for the CBD under the authority of the COP, which could be designated "Global Biodiversity Fund", and what the options are to operationalize it; ii) whether the Trust Fund under the GEF established by [Decision 15/15](#) should be designated "Global Biodiversity Fund"; iii) whether and how either of the funding mechanisms mentioned above, or another alternative, would be the adequate entity to receive and disburse the revenue generated by the mechanism established under [Decision 15/9](#).



4

An end to the conflation of Indigenous Peoples with local communities: Countries are discussing the [recommendations](#) of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with regard to putting an end to the conflation of Indigenous Peoples with the term “local communities”. This combination undermines Indigenous Peoples’ rights and hinders the realization of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.



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The negotiations on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on genetic resources are crucial for Indigenous Peoples. There is a crucial linkage between Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and DSI. According to the Nagoya Protocol, Indigenous People can control the use of their genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. However, DSI is not currently classified as a genetic resource.

Rights to genetic resources are not defined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Furthermore, these rights are only recognized if States recognize Indigenous Peoples, and many States treat ancestral domains as under their sovereignty without recognizing Indigenous Peoples' rights to genetic resources.

In several cases, access to genetic resources depends on using the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples. Therefore, Indigenous Peoples are requesting that their rights be respected, including free, prior and informed consent and access and sharing of benefits.

Continuing capacity building about biotechnology, with interpretation guaranteed, is essential for Indigenous Peoples to sit at the table at different levels with different stakeholders, which implies having a sustainable financing system.



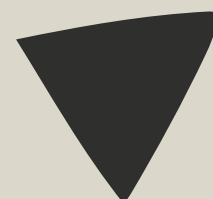
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Discussion on the Institutional Arrangements and Programme of Work: [The Working Group on Article 8\(j\)](#) and [the Program of Work on Article 8\(j\)](#) are the main mechanisms for implementing the CBD commitments in relation to Indigenous Peoples.

The new Program of Work on Article 8(j) will be approved. It incorporates two additional elements: a human rights-based approach and improved access to funding. These discussions are still open to negotiation.

The Future of the Working Group on Article 8(j): Decisions will be made on whether to continue with the 8(j) Working Group's Ad-Hoc nature and limited mandate, or to establish a permanent subsidiary body with a mandate and no time limitation, or to achieve full integration, which implies that issues related to Indigenous Peoples will be addressed in the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI).

Establishment of a mechanism dedicated specifically to Indigenous Peoples: Instead of the Working Group on Article 8(j), some Indigenous Peoples are advocating for the establishment of a mechanism that has an exclusive mandate dedicated to Indigenous Peoples' issues under the CBD.



Watch the discussions on the upcoming CBD COP16:

Webinar 1:

Indigenous Peoples and the recognition of their rights in
CBD

Webinar 2:

The structure of the CBD's COP and how to participate as
Indigenous youth

Webinar 3:

Contributions & challenges of Indigenous women in the
implementation of Gender Action Plan on Biodiversity

Webinar 4:

Digital Sequence Information and Indigenous Peoples

Webinar 5:

Indigenous Peoples' outreach in resource mobilization



Land is Life