Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Agenda Item 3 (b)-
Cross-cutting Approaches to the Implementation and Monitoring of the
Goals  MDG 7 : Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples and the
Convention on Biological Diversity

Statement Presented by Joji Carino, Tebtebba Foundation
on behalf of the Indigenous International Forum on Biodiversity Working Group on
Indicators

TEBTEBBA, RAIPON and Russian Academy of Sciences, Saami Council; Asian Indigenous
Peoples Pact; Na Koa Ikaika o ka Iahui Hawaii’I; Coordination Mapuche Nejuen; Comite
Intertribal (ITC); Tinhinan; (present at the 5th meeting of the UNPFII)

Additional Signatories:
Indigenous Information Network, International Indian Treaty Council, Netherlands Centre for
Indigenous Peoples, Foundation for Aboriginal and Islander Research Action (FAIRA), Taungya,
Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP), Action pour la Promotion des Droits des
Minorites Autochtones en Afrique Centrale (APDMAC); African Indigenous Women’s
Organization (AIWO); Hadzabe Peoples Survival, Karamojong Indigenous Peoples’
Organization, Namanga Urban Environment Organization, Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara
(AMAN)

The Indigenous International Forum on Biodiversity Working Group on Indicators calls on
the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to adopt the following recommendation:

Draft Recommendation:

The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues welcomes and fully supports the holding of
an International Expert Seminar on Indicators relevant to Indigenous Peoples and
Biodiversity (MDG7) to be organized by the Indigenous International Forum on
Biodiversity Working Group on Indicators under the auspices of the Convention of the
Biological Diversity, and offers its co-sponsorship for this event.

The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues enjoins the UN Inter-Agency Support
Group, governments and donors to maximize collaboration with this activity and to avoid
duplication of efforts, in keeping with advancement of our joint efforts to strengthen work
on data collection and identification of indicators relevant for indigenous peoples, the
Millennium Development Goals and the Convention on Biological Diversity.
BACKGROUND

I wish to make a statement on important developments relevant to Indigenous Peoples and MDG7 on environmental sustainability, particularly within the Convention on Biological Diversity.

At COP6, the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a Strategic Plan and the 2010 target to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss consistent with MDG7. COP7 in Decision VII/30 adopted a framework for Assessing Progress Towards the 2010 Target with provisional indicators. Goal 9 of the 2010 Target is to maintain socio-cultural diversity of indigenous and local communities, with two targets:

- Target 9.1 to “Protect traditional knowledge, innovations and practices” and
- Target 9.2 to “Protect the rights of indigenous and local communities over their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, including their rights to benefit-sharing”

The headline indicator on the state of indigenous languages was selected for immediate testing, and further relevant indicators were to be developed by the CBD’s Open-ended Working Group on Article 8j and Related Provisions. On the occasion of the 4th meeting of the CBD’s Working Group on Article 8j and Related Provisions (WG8j) in Granada, Spain, Indigenous Peoples organizations formed the IIFB Working Group on Indicators to respond to immediate need to identify and test indicators relevant for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The IIFB Working Group on Indicators proposed the convening of an International Expert Seminar, to consider in an holistic and integrated way, the development of a limited number of meaningful indicators, in the identified thematic areas:

- Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices
- Customary sustainable use (Article 10c of the CBD)
- Maintain goods and services from biodiversity to support human well-being (Biodiversity and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals)
- Effective participation of Indigenous and Local Communities in the CBD processes at national, regional and international levels

COP8 of the CBD, in Decision VIII/5 G recognized the need for a structured technical process to guide further work in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions on further development of a limited number of meaningful and practical indicators for assessing the status of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, for assessing progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target. The decision also welcomed the initiative of the IIFB Working Group on Indicators to organize an International Expert Seminar on Indicators in support of this work. Furthermore, the COP8 decision:

Invites Parties, the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, IUCN, the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (Initiative) and organizations with experience and data-sets relevant to this work, donors, the academe, and research institutions and other interested bodies to support and collaborate with the WG8j and Related Provisions and the IIFB Indicators Initiative with the above-mentioned technical process.