

**Indigenous Peoples' Participation at
The 9th Conference of Parties
to the
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

Bonn Germany 2008

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ACRONYMS

| | |
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| ABS | - Access and Benefit Sharing |
| AHCC | - Ad Hoc Co-ordinating Committee |
| AGR | - Access to Genetic Resources |
| BMZ | - Federal ministry Of Economic Affairs Germany |
| CBD | - Convention on Biological Diversity |
| CC | - Coordinating Committee |
| CCA | - Community Conserved Areas |
| CDM | - Clean Development Mechanisms |
| CEPA | - Communication Education and Public Awareness |
| COP | - Conference of Parties |
| CSD | - Commission on Sustainable Development |
| CSO | - Civil Society Organization |
| EIA | - Environmental Impact Assessments |
| EU | - European Union |
| FAO | - Food and Agriculture Organization |
| FCPF | - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility |
| FPIC | - Free Prior Informed Consent |
| GA | - General Assembly |
| GC | - Global Crisis |
| GR | - Genetic Resources |
| GEF | - Global Environment Facility |
| GEI | - Green Economic Initiative |
| GM | - Genetically Modified |
| IIN | - Indigenous Information Network |
| IIFB | - International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Biodiversity |
| ILCs | - Indigenous and Local Communities |
| IPs | - Indigenous Peoples |
| IPLC's | - Indigenous People's and Local Communities |
| IPCC | - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change |
| IR | - International Regime |
| MEA | - Millennium Ecosystem Assessment |
| MDG's | - Millennium Development Goals |
| MPA | - Marine Protected Areas |
| NGO | - Non-Governmental Organization |
| NASA | - National Aeronautics and Space Administration |
| PoW | - Programme of Work |
| SBI | - Subsidiary Body for Implementers |
| SBSTTA | - Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice |
| SCBD | - Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity |
| REDD | - Reduce Emission from Deforestation and Degradation |
| TEEB | - The Economists of Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| UN | - United Nations |
| UNCBD | - United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity |
| UNCCD | - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification |
| UNCED | - United Nations Conference on Environment and Development |
| UNDP | - United Nations Development Program |
| UNDRIP | - United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples |
| UNEP | - United Nations Environment Program |
| UNESCO | - United Nation Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| UNFCCC | - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| UNPFII | - United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues |
| UNU | - United Nations University |
| WCC | - World Conservation Congress |
| WG8j | - Working Group on article 8j |
| WIPO | - World Intellectual Property Organization |
| WHO | - World Health Organization |

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A big thank you.

Background

The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (the “IIFB”) was established at COP3 in 1996. Since then through the Ad Hoc coordinating Committee which is comprised of regional representatives divided into seven geographical regions – **Africa, Asia, Arctic, Europe, Latin America , Pacific and Russia** the IIFB has never looked back in the struggle to ensure the voice of Indigenous Peoples in the CBD is visible. In the past few years IIFB has grown stronger and its role in the CBD process has been more and more vibrant through the contribution in different meetings, writing case studies which have been consultative and participatory by different regions. Partnering with other organizations, donors and governments in the contribution of different consultation as stipulated in COP decisions is another achievement which has helped IIFB to be more visible than ever before. The IIFB has also been recognised by the Conference of Parties as an advisory body on the work around Article 8(j) and related provisions. The Forum is open to all Indigenous Peoples and meets before each of the major meetings of the CBD, such as the Conference of Parties (COP), the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) the Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing and the Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions. During the IIFB meetings, participants talk about their concerns and strategies around the CBD. They draft text as well as opening and closing statements for the official CBD meetings. It is during the meetings that Participants share together strategies and prepare for active roles during the CBD meetings in lobbying government officials to better address Indigenous Peoples issues.

Goals and objectives of IIFB

- 1.** To provide Indigenous Peoples organizations throughout the world with a source of information and resources regarding present and past involvement of Indigenous Peoples in the CBD process.
- 2.** To provide Indigenous Peoples’ delegates with a space to discuss in detail the agenda and processes of the Conference of Parties, strategize on participation, dialogue and consultation with partners, Governmental and stakeholders attending any COP.
- 3.** Monitoring and advancement of gains made in inter-sessional meetings; expert meetings, working groups and related meetings before any Conference of Parties in reference to the rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- 4.** To ensure that processes for participation of Indigenous Peoples in the CBD negotiations are maintained and improved and that past gains in participation are not undermined.
- 5.** To develop further the IIFB strategic engagement with CBD, including identifying Indigenous representatives who can intervene, influence and negotiate decisions based on agreements from the Working Groups on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions; Access and Benefit-Sharing; Protected Areas and other relevant topics of the Conference of Parties.
- 6.** To promote and strengthen worldwide solidarity amongst and between indigenous Peoples, hunter gatherers and the local communities.