

**UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Eleventh Session  
New York, 24 April – 5 May 2017**

**Statement on Agenda Item 12: Thursday, May 4, 2017**

**Future work of the Permanent Forum, and emerging issues  
including issues considered by the Economic and Social Council**

*By Joji Carino, Stichting Forest Peoples Programme*

I wish to draw the attention of the UN Permanent Forum to highly relevant work being undertaken by the Intergovernmental Science- Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and to make some recommendations.

IPBES was established in 2012 and now has 126 member countries, and has the overall objective to provide policy relevant knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services to inform decision making. It is a platform similar to the Intergovernmental Platform on Climate Change (IPCC) on the state of climate change, but with some important differences. The operational principles guiding IPBES underline full inclusion of Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) in its work, as now reflected in its conceptual framework, its work programme and institutional arrangements. During its latest plenary meeting in March 2017, the IPBES plenary adopted its Approach Paper on recognising and working with Indigenous and Local Knowledge across its four functions: assessments, knowledge and data, policy tools, and capacity-building. Significantly, this approach paper addresses not only the importance of indigenous and local knowledge, but **how this will be fully included in its work.**

On Tuesday, the co-chair of IPBES global assessment, Professor Eduardo Brondizio, presented at a side event chaired by UNPFII member Ms. Anne Nuorgam, the conceptual approach and outline of the global assessment and how indigenous peoples can fully participate and shape the global assessment report. With regards, indigenous peoples and local communities, the global assessment seeks to answer three broad questions:

1. *What have been the contributions of ILKPs/IPLCs to the sustainable use, management and conservation of nature and Nature's Benefits to People (NBP) at regional and global scales?*
2. *What are the most important features, pressures and factors related to and/or enabling these contributions, as well as impacting present and future nature's benefits to people and quality of life of Indigenous Peoples?*
3. **What policy responses, measures, and processes can contribute to strengthen and improve the institutions and governance of nature and nature's benefits to peoples with regard to ILK and Indigenous Peoples?**

A short and simple online survey on the IPBES website invites Indigenous Peoples to register interest by identifying themselves, research and resources produced by IPs normally inaccessible from peer-reviewed journals, contact organisations and experts who wish to contribute to this work.

IPBES will employ a suite of participatory tools including online surveys, face-to-face dialogues, in-depth workshops and strategic partnerships to engage with indigenous peoples over the next two years before the completion of the global assessment by May 2019.

The UNPFII, with its mandate to raise awareness and understanding of indigenous peoples issues globally, is a worthy partner of IPBES, and in this regard, I propose the following recommendations:

1. The UN Permanent Forum welcomes the recognition and inclusion of Indigenous and Local Knowledge in the work of IPBES, and further welcomes its engagement with Indigenous Peoples at all stages of its global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and extends its full collaboration.
2. The UN Permanent Forum invites IPBES to continue to inform the UNPFII about the progress in its work, including at its seventeenth session in 2018.
3. The UNPFII calls on States, Indigenous Peoples, research organisations and other relevant bodies to contribute to the successful completion of the IPBES global assessment and to other work products relevant for indigenous peoples such as its global assessment on land degradation and restoration.