



**INITIATIVE DE PROMOTION DE L'ÉDUCATION DES BATWA POUR  
LE DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE (IPREBAD)**

**Agrée par l'Ordonnance**

**Ministériel N° 1526 du 18/10/2017**

**17/02/ 2025**

## **Subject: Inputs from IPREBAD on the Ministerial Declaration for UNEA-7**

**To:** The Secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme

**From:** Initiative de Promotion de l'Éducation des Batwa pour le Développement Durable (IPREBAD)

**Excellency,**

IPREBAD welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the drafting process of the ministerial declaration for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-7) under the theme "Advancing Sustainable Solutions for a Resilient Planet." As an organization committed to promoting sustainable development and environmental resilience within Indigenous Batwa communities in Burundi, we emphasize the following key inputs:

### **1. Key Elements and Messages for the Ministerial Declaration**

- Recognizing and integrating Indigenous knowledge systems and traditional ecological practices as critical solutions to environmental sustainability. Indigenous communities, including the Batwa, have long been stewards of biodiversity and sustainable land management.
- Funding Indigenous organization to participate in the international conferences and operationalization projects at the grassroots.
- Addressing environmental justice by ensuring the participation of marginalized and Indigenous communities in decision-making processes related to climate action and environmental governance.



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- Strengthening land tenure rights and access to natural resources for Indigenous peoples to promote ecosystem restoration and biodiversity conservation.
- Enhancing global support for community-led adaptation and mitigation initiatives to build resilience against climate change, particularly for vulnerable populations.

## **2. Scientific Findings for Consideration**

- ✓ Reports from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) emphasize that Indigenous and local communities play a vital role in conserving biodiversity and should be empowered in environmental policy frameworks.
- ✓ The latest IPCC reports highlight the disproportionate impact of climate change on Indigenous and marginalized groups, necessitating urgent and targeted climate adaptation measures.
- ✓ UNEP's "Making Peace with Nature" report underscores the need for transformative change in environmental governance, integrating Indigenous perspectives and community-driven solutions.

## **3. Collective Actions and Policy Solutions**

- ✚ Establishing legally binding commitments to recognize Indigenous land rights and traditional governance systems as fundamental to achieving global environmental goals.
- ✚ Enhancing financial and technical support for community-led environmental initiatives, including agroecology, reforestation, and conservation projects led by Indigenous organizations.
- ✚ Creating inclusive environmental governance mechanisms that ensure the direct representation and meaningful participation of Indigenous peoples in UNEA processes and policy formulation.



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- ✚ Promoting education and capacity-building initiatives to empower Indigenous youth and women in climate resilience and sustainable development.

**4. Additional Messages for Consideration**

- ✓ The role of Indigenous women as key actors in environmental sustainability should be emphasized, with targeted policies to support their leadership in climate action.
- ✓ Strengthening partnerships between governments, NGOs, and Indigenous communities to co-design and implement sustainable solutions tailored to local contexts.
- ✓ Acknowledging the interconnectedness of biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and human rights, and advocating for a holistic, rights-based approach in the ministerial declaration.

IPREBAD appreciates the inclusive and participatory approach taken in the development of the ministerial declaration and looks forward to continued engagement in this process. We remain committed to contributing to a resilient and sustainable planet that recognizes and upholds the rights of Indigenous peoples.

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Pour IPPREBAD

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February 17, 2025

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