



**Convention on  
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**BUREAU OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
COMMITTEE FOR THE NAGOYA  
PROTOCOL ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT-  
SHARING**

PyeongChang, Korea 23 February 2014

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ICNP BUREAU HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2014 IN  
PYEONGCHANG, KOREA**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The meeting of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ICNP) was held on 23 February 2014 at the Alpensia Convention Centre, PyeongChang, Korea on the eve of the third meeting of the ICNP. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Janet Lowe (New Zealand), co-chair of the Intergovernmental Committee.
2. The following Bureau members participated in the meeting: Mr. Hem Pande (India), Mr. David Hafashimana (Uganda), Mr. Samuel Dieme (Senegal), Ms. Anita James (Saint Lucia), Ms. Ines Verleye (Belgium), Mr. Benjamin Phillips (Australia), Ms. Dubravka Stepic (Croatia), Mr. Sergiy Gubar (Ukraine), Ms. Anita James (St-Lucia).
3. The Host Government of Korea was represented by Mr. Seukwoo Kang while the Secretariat was represented by Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary and Mr. Sarat Babu Gidda, Secretary of ICNP 3.

**I. Opening of the meeting**

4. Ms. Janet Lowe, Co-chair of ICNP welcomed members of the Bureau and invited the Executive Secretary to brief the Bureau about preparations for the third meeting of the ICNP. The Executive Secretary outlined the secretariat's expectations under each of the agenda items of ICNP 3.

**II. Update on the Protocol**

5. Status of ratification:

The Executive Secretary briefed the Bureau about the status of ratification of the NP and the prospect for the Protocol to enter into force in time to enable the convening of the first meeting of the COP-MOP concurrently with COP-12. He informed the Bureau of the activities carried out by the Secretariat in support of the ratification and accession process and the preparations made for ICNP 3 and being made for the first meeting of the COP-MOP. Mr. Sarat Babu Gidda, the Secretary of ICNP 3 further added the projections for having COP-MOP 1 concurrently with COP-12. Mr. Pande, on behalf of the Indian presidency for COP 11, also reminded members that efforts should be made towards realizing the first meeting of the NP COP concurrently with COP 12 in Pyeongchang, Korea.

6. ABS Clearing House

The Secretariat informed the Bureau about the status of development of the pilot phase of the ABS Clearing-House. Bureau members were also informed about the training workshop on the

ABS CH that was underway at the venue with over 120 participants with the aim to familiarize participants in the design of the CH and on how information may be registered by users following the common formats developed in consultation with the IAC of the ABS CH.

7. Regional capacity-building workshops

The Secretariat reported on activities it carried out to date to support countries in their efforts to ratify and/or implement the NP. The Bureau was also informed of the capacity building activities planned between ICNP 3 and COP 12 to support eligible countries in their ratification and implementation efforts of the NP.

### **III. Organization of work during ICNP 3**

8. The Co-Chair suggested to aiming to conclude, to the extent possible, ICNP 3 by mid-day Friday, 28 February 2014. In order to achieve this time line, the Bureau agreed that courtesy remarks such as thanking the host Government, the Co-chair and the Secretariat as well as expressions of good will for successful ICNP 3 deliberations, by individual delegations or regional groups need to be discouraged. Instead, the Co-chair will make a statement on behalf of all the regional groups.
9. The Bureau considered the possible items that may need the establishment of contact groups and agreed on a tentative schedule of when the group(s) may have their meetings. Accordingly, it is planned to have a contact group on compliance procedures and mechanisms (Article 30) Tuesday evening from 7-10 and Wednesday morning. The objective of the negotiations within the group should be to agree to resolve all the outstanding issues and eliminate all the square brackets or at least to significantly reduce the number of the square brackets so as to allow approval of the procedures and mechanisms by the COP-MOP at its first meeting. The Bureau also considered the possibility of establishing a contact group on Article 10 of the NP. In the event, a contact group is established it is suggested for the group to have its meeting Wednesday evening.
10. The Bureau noted that detail discussions may not be necessary on the budget proposed by the Secretariat. The proposal was prepared in response to COP's request. However, any substantive discussions on the proposed budget are expected to be held at COP 12, not at this ICNP. Therefore, in order to develop some general recommendations on the proposed budget, consultations could be conducted through a 'friends of the Co-Chair' setting.
11. Members agreed to advice their respective regions to work towards finalizing all CRP documents by Thursday evening. In this regard, the Secretariat also informed the Bureau that if there is going to be any delay in the finalization CRP documents by the end of Thursday, the L documents would not be available in languages for adoption on Friday.
12. The Bureau asked the Secretariat to make available information note by Tuesday morning on any proposal on the organization of work of the first meeting of the NP COP-MOP concurrently with COP-12 in order to facilitate the consideration, by the present meeting, of the provisional agenda of NP COP-MOP 1 under agenda item 3.3.
13. The Bureau agreed to designate Ms. Dubravka Stepic, the Bureau member from Croatia as the Rapporteur of the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee.

### **IV. Other matters**

14. Some Bureau members mentioned that no visa problem was reported in their region. They expressed their gratitude to the Government of Korea for facilitating the issuance of visa for delegates.
15. Some members raised some concern as regards transportation to and from their hotel and the Convention Centre and communication challenges they observed interacting with the locals. Mr. Kang, the representative of the Host Government assured Bureau members that his Government

will do what it can and provide appropriate facilities to ICNP 3 and the coming COP12 and COP-MOP 7 meetings.

16. A member of the Bureau enquired whether, in the absence of Mr. Fernando Casas, the Co-chair of ICNP, there was a need to assign someone to help Co-Chair Lowe. The Executive Secretary expressed his regret that Mr. Casas was not able to attend ICNP 3. However, he explained that as Mr. Casas is still Co-Chair no formal action may be needed. However, he invited Co-chair Lowe to comment on her possible needs. Co-Chair Lowe assured the Bureau that with the help of Bureau members and the Secretariat, she would be able to manage chairing the meeting. She has also recalled that negotiations that are expected to take place in small contact groups would be co-chaired by representatives of the different regions following the long standing practice.
17. Finally, the Bureau agreed to have a meeting starting from Tuesday every morning at 8 a.m. to review progress and to provide guidance, as appropriate.

#### **V. Closure of the meeting:**

18. The meeting was closed at 5:30 p.m.