

## TEMPLATE FOR COMMENTS

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| <b>Title of document reviewed:</b>                   | The Emergence and Growth of Digital Sequence Information in Research and Development: Implications for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, and Fair and Equitable Benefit-Sharing – A Fact-Finding and Scoping Study Undertaken for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity |         |
| Comments on the draft fact-finding and scoping study |   |         |
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| 0 | 0 | <p>The study was requested from the Executive Secretary by paragraph 3(b) of decision XIII/16 in order to clarify terminology and concepts and to assess the extent and the terms and conditions of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources in the context of the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol.</p> <p>The study provides for useful summary of the terminology used within scientific research circles and various international fora discussing the issue to refer to the phenomenon explored under the study ('digital sequence information' - DSI) (chapter 2.1). It explains and provides background information about the terms: 'genetic sequence data' (most widely used in the scientific research circles), 'nucleotide sequence data', 'nucleotide sequence information', 'genetic sequences'. The study also provides for a useful summary of terms used in different international fora, such as UN General Assembly BBNJ process (<i>resources in silico</i>, changed in the meantime to 'digital sequence data'), ITPGRFA which uses the term 'sequence data' and 'genetic information'; WHO PIP Framework which uses the term 'genetic sequence data'. This summary is very useful and informative.</p> <p>Given that the term 'digital sequence information' has been so far used in CBD and NP context, after providing this useful summary, the study continues to refer to the phenomenon as DSI.</p> <p>As much as it is understandable that the study would refer to the concept which has originally been used in the decision of COP (and COP-MOP), it is nonetheless of utmost importance that it is clear from the study in which sense the term DSI is used. This is of primary importance also in the view of the objective of the study, i.e. to clarify the terminology.</p> <p>In fact, when the reader finishes reading the document, he/she does not really know whether the information acquired referred to genetic sequence data (as it can be presumed) or does it also cover other aspects (as it can be implied from the analysis of the words 'information' and 'digital').</p> <p>This should be clarified.</p> |
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Please submit your comments to [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int) or by fax at +1 514 288 6588.