

TEMPLATE FOR COMMENTS

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Title of document reviewed:	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		
Page #	Para #	Comment
0	0	This is a well written and very comprehensive document.
		It covers several important aspects of the sharing of digital sequence information. Finland thanks for the opportunity to comment it.
46	7.2.3	Pathogens and heath emergencies
		Public databases, either open access or open source, are important for public heath microbiology targeted to prevention and control of infectious diseases. Finland would like to add the following sentences to the paragraph 7.2.3:
		<i>Digital sequence information is an inseparable part of modern infectious diseases surveillance.</i>
		<i>In the future prediction of virulence and antimicrobial resistance is possible directly from the genome sequences of microbes.</i>
		<i>Usability of sequence database is important for the development of diagnostic tools based on molecular biology techniques.</i>
47	7.3.2	Potential negative impacts of technologies associated with digital sequence information
		Finland suggests that, if possible, biosecurity issues are discussed more thoroughly in this paragraph.
59	8.3.1	Identification of the provenance of digital sequence information
		Finland agrees that “inclusion of the origin of digital sequence information is critical”. Sequence data, without so called meta data, is not very useful. Microbial sequences obtained from clinical human specimens are especially challenging, in relation to personal patient data. This viewpoint should also be discussed.
62	8.3.3	Distinguishing between non-commercial and commercial research
		All countries, regardless of their own ability to utilise public databases, can benefit from development of new diagnostic tests and drugs.

Please submit your comments to secretariat@cbd.int or by fax at +1 514 288 6588.