

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
7	18	Add “the conservation and sustainable use of marine” after “process on”
7	18	Replace “in” by “of” for consistency with the official title in relevant General Assembly resolutions
8	14 to 16	Rephrase as ‘In the context of the discussions of the Preparatory Committee established by resolution 69/292 “Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction”, the terms <i>resources in silico</i> and <i>digital sequence data</i> have been used by different delegations.’
18	17	Delete “the implications of digital sequence information for benefit sharing under consideration by”
18	18	Add “ the conservation and sustainable use of marine” after “process on”
18	18	Replace “in” by “of” for consistency with the official title in relevant General Assembly resolutions
19	29	Delete “the UN General Assembly” since including the UNGA in this sentence gives the wrong impression that more elaborate discussion on those issues took place than was actually the case. The General Assembly has not explored terminology associated with genetic sequence use, the transmission of this data or information digitally, and the implications of employing different terms, including the words “digital”, “sequence” and “information”.

19	33 to 35	<p>This statement is factually incorrect. There are still differences of opinion among delegations on which term to use and the Preparatory Committee has not reached agreement on using “digital sequence data” rather than “resources in silico”. Both terms are still used by different delegations. The sentence should therefore be re-phrased to reflect this, possibly as follows:</p> <p>‘In the context of the discussions of the Preparatory Committee established by resolution 69/292 “Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction”, the terms resources in silico and digital sequence data have been used by different delegations.’</p>
20	12	<p>Replace “All” by “most” for the reasons set out above: the Preparatory Committee established by resolution 69/292 has not addressed terminology.</p>
20	13	<p>Replace “The respective” by “Some” for the reasons set out above: the Preparatory Committee established by resolution 69/292 has not addressed terminology or the need to harmonize terminology.</p>

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