

Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources: Submission of Views and Information on Terminology, Scope, and Domestic Measures on Access and Benefit Sharing

Submitted by- Ethiopia

31 May 2019

In a notification dated February 7, 2019, the CBD Secretariat, pursuant to decisions 14/20 and NP-3/12, respectively, invited Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant organizations and stakeholders to submit views and information:

- (a) To clarify the concept, including relevant terminology and scope, of digital sequence information on genetic resources and if and how domestic measures on access and benefit-sharing consider digital sequence information on genetic resources;
- (b) On benefit-sharing arrangements from commercial and non-commercial use of digital sequence information on genetic resources.

In addition, Parties, other Governments and indigenous peoples and local communities were invited to submit information on “their capacity-building needs regarding the access, use, generation and analysis of digital sequence information on genetic resources, in particular for the three objectives of the Convention.

Ethiopia as a party to CBD submits the following views and information on DSI:-

- (a) Views and information to clarify the concept, including relevant terminology and scope, of digital sequence information on genetic resources and if and how domestic measures on access and benefit-sharing consider digital sequence information on genetic resources.

1. Terminology

DSI is not an appropriate terminology to capture the various types of information on genetic resources that may be relevant to the three objectives of the CBD. Therefore, we suggest using the term **genetic information or genetic sequence data**.

2. Scope

Any information that results from the utilization of genetic resources should fall under the scope of ABS legislation and subject to benefit sharing

3. how domestic measures on access and benefit-sharing consider digital sequence information on genetic resources

The revised draft Ethiopian ABS proclamation incorporates DSI in its scope and definition of genetic resources. ‘Genetic resource’ is defined as any material of biological resource containing genetic information having actual or potential values for humanity and includes derivatives and digital sequence information. PIC and MAT requirements that apply to access GRs also apply to DSI and apply also benefit sharing obligations from use of DSI for both commercial and non-commercial use. The details will elaborate in the Ethiopian ABS regulation under review. The Mutually Agreed Terms and the permit templates will be revised to incorporate mandatory clauses that address on conditions to use genetic information that results from utilization of GRs, whether it is in the public or private databases.

(b) Views and Information on benefit-sharing arrangements from commercial and non-commercial use of digital sequence information on genetic resources.

Ethiopia suggests that there should be an obligation of benefit sharing from use of DSI that result from utilization of GRs. The benefit sharing should be from commercial and non-commercial use of DSI.

(c) Information on capacity-building needs regarding the access, use, generation and analysis of digital sequence information on genetic resources

Ethiopia strongly believes that there is a need for technical, financial and human capacity building regarding the access, use, generation and analysis of digital sequence information on genetic resources.