

**In the name of God**



**Islamic Republic of Iran CBD NFP**

Date: 01-June-2019

Dear Dr. Cristiana Pasca Palmer,  
Executive Secretary  
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
United Nations Environment Programme  
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Dear Dr. Cristiana Pasca Palmer,

Reference to Notification 2019-12, dated 5 February 2019, I wish to submit Islamic Republic of Iran's view on "Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources (DSIGR)":

Rapid development of modern Biotechnology and molecular techniques including identification, isolation, modification and successful transfer of genes and/or any DNA controlling gene function in addition to recent development of techniques for genome editing and advances in data analysis has increased the potential value of "Genetic Resources" in one hand and attempts to access these resources and/or to their digital sequence information. Therefore, a science and policy- based process on digital sequence information on genetic resources has been adopted in the 14<sup>th</sup> MOP.

The scope of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources should be extended to any "sequence information originated from genetic resources" and should be included all DNA/RNA and amino acid sequences. This information should also include both raw sequences information or the processed/annotated sequence information. This information should be made available and accessed by public for non-commercial use only. However, any commercial application of the Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources should be followed the same procedures and terms decided on Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit sharing.

In other words, there should be no difference in accessing and commercial application of genetic resources as stated in Nagoya Protocol and the Digital Sequence Information of the same genetic resources.

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By non-commercial use, we mean access and use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources for educational/training and/or for research purpose only.

In spite of its significance, developing countries lack infrastructure for generation of Digital Sequence Information from their own genetic resources, storing, the generated sequence and their analysis. Owner of technologies should make technologies available for developing countries with no restriction (including politically motivated economic sanctions).

Capacity building requires provision of access to hardware (equipment/machinery) and software (computer programs and know how), for the three objectives of the convention.

Iran wishes to be actively involved in extended AHTEG and to contribute for a science and policy- based process on digital sequence.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'and'.

**ADVISOR OF MINISTER AND  
NATIONAL FOCAL POINT OF CBD**