



October 19, 2009

Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif  
Executive Secretary  
Convention on Biological Diversity  
413 St. Jacques Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Montreal, Quebec  
Canada H2Y 1N9

Dear Ahmed,

In advance of the upcoming 8th Meeting of the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Working Group scheduled for 9 - 16 November 2009, I am writing on behalf of the ABSA to express support for the latest policy briefs submitted by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

These ICC submissions (attached) address important outstanding issues in negotiation of the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) International Regime (IR), including with regard to treatment of pathogenic genetic materials, the Nature of the IR (legally binding, non-binding or a combination of binding and non-binding elements), treatment of traditional knowledge (TK), and capacity building issues.

Given the challenging external economic environment it is unlikely that ABSA will be able to be represented at ABS WG-8. To the greatest extent possible, however, ABSA members will continue to work towards the success of the ABS negotiations in Montreal and in the coming months.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Susan Kling'.

Susan Kling Finston  
Executive Director