**CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD)**

**NOTIFICATIONS 2021 - 063**

Submission of views and new information on policy approaches, options or modalities for digital sequence information on genetic resources

Submission by Australia

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**NOTE: Information provided in this response has predominately been drawn from Australian Government input**

**CBD Notification 2021-063**

Australia thanks the Secretariat for the opportunity to submit views on policy approaches, options or modalities for digital sequence information on genetic resources, as communicated in Notification 2021-063, Friday 3 September Ref: SCBD/NPU/TS/CGA/AC/8986

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| **Policy approaches, options or modalities for digital sequence information on genetic resources** | |
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| ***General Comments*** | |
| Australia thanks the Secretariat for developing paper CBD/WG2020/3/4 on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources (DSI) and for facilitating the DSI contact group at the Third Open Ended Working Group.  As a global provider and user of both genetic resources and the DSI arising from their utilisation, Australia is a firm believer in the global benefit of sharing DSI, and that this should underpin how DSI is incorporated into the CBD and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Australia is committed to the principles of open science, while recognising there are current inequities in the capacity to access, use and benefit from open access DSI. In this context, we also note the importance of capacity building in addressing these inequities.  Genetic resource and DSI providers and users seek legal certainty, simplicity and clarity. Any benefit sharing mechanism established for DSI must maintain open access arrangements to ensure the availability and efficient transfer of information for use in science, medicine and innovation development.  Any proposed compliance model for DSI must have simple certification processes, provide legal certainty for users, be user-friendly, and not require the development of new domestic legislation to implement. It must also be self-funded, with revenue generated by the system used to cover the cost of the system’s upkeep, with no additional finances required by Party governments.  Australia supports exploring approaches that could direct benefits to support Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) contributions to conservation and sustainable resource use, and exploring linkages between IPLC contributions and DSI research to create more opportunities for collaboration. | |