



## Press Brief

# The Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and Information-sharing

## Why is this important?

The Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-house (ABS Clearing-House) is a platform for exchanging information on ABS and a key tool for facilitating the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, by enhancing legal certainty and transparency on procedures for access, and for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources along the value chain, including through the internationally recognized certificate of compliance. Parties are expected to provide and update the information required under the Protocol through this information-exchange system. The ABS Clearing-House will host relevant information regarding ABS and will facilitate connecting users and providers of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

On the basis of guidance provided by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol (ICNP) and the informal advisory committee for the ABS Clearing-House, the Secretariat is implementing and administering the pilot phase of the ABS Clearing-House, taking into account ongoing feedback from users. Capacity-building workshops and training sessions on the ABS Clearing-House were carried out during regional workshops and prior to the third meeting of ICNP. The dedicated website accessible online at <http://absch.cbd.int> allows for registration and search of national and reference records by making use of common formats for submitting information in a standardized form.

The pilot phase of the ABS Clearing-House is being tested by Parties, indigenous and local communities, international organizations and relevant stakeholders. All users of the ABS Clearing-House are encouraged to publish records and provide feedback to the Executive Secretary. Efforts are underway, including an outreach and engagement campaign, to ensure that the ABS Clearing-House is fully operational when the Nagoya Protocol enters into force by the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.



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## What news to expect in Pyeongchang?

As the Nagoya Protocol enters into force, the operational phase of the ABS Clearing-House will be launched. A capacity-building workshop on the ABS Clearing-House will take place on 12 October prior to the first meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

At its first meeting, it is anticipated that the COP-MOP will, among other things:

- Consider and adopt the modalities of operation for the ABS Clearing-House refined by the Executive Secretary on the basis of the guidance provided by the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee.
- Consider the priorities for further development of the ABS Clearing-House on the basis of the report on progress and feedback received during the pilot phase.

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