



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.: General
5 September 2024

Original: English

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Sixteenth meeting

Cali, Colombia, 21 October–1 November 2024

Items 9 and 11 of the provisional agenda*

Digital sequence information on genetic resources

Resource mobilization and financial mechanism

Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization regarding the adequate entity to receive and disburse the revenue generated by the mechanism established under decision 15/9

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The present note contains the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization regarding the adequate entity to receive and disburse the revenue generated by the mechanism established under decision 15/9.
2. In its decision 15/7, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity established an advisory committee on resource mobilization and requested, inter alia, that it explore proposals for a global instrument on biodiversity finance to mobilize resources from all sources, commensurate with the ambition of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
3. In its terms of reference, provided in annex II to decision 15/7, the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization was specifically tasked with developing recommendations for the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on:
 - (a) Whether to create a dedicated financing mechanism for the Convention under the authority of the Conference of the Parties, which could be designated “Global Biodiversity Fund”, and what the options would be to operationalize it;
 - (b) Whether the Trust Fund under the Global Environment Facility established by decision 15/15 should be designated “Global Biodiversity Fund”;
 - (c) Whether and how either of the funding mechanisms mentioned above, or another alternative, would be the adequate entity to receive and disburse the revenue generated by the mechanism established under decision 15/9.

* CBD/COP/16/1.

4. At its fourth meeting, in May 2024, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation considered a progress report on the implementation of decision 15/7,¹ including on the work of the Advisory Committee, which at that time had not addressed the question referred in paragraph 3 (c) above. The Subsidiary Body adopted recommendation 4/3, which included a draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties, as reproduced in the compilation of draft decisions.² In its recommendation, the Subsidiary Body, following the advice of the Advisory Committee, invited the Committee to hold a third meeting after the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-Sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence information on Genetic Resource, so that the outcomes of the Working Group may be taken into account in the response to the question referred to in paragraph 3 (c) above and the present report.

5. The third meeting of the Advisory Committee was thus convened in Montreal, Canada, from 20 to 22 August 2024, the week after the second meeting of the Working Group.

6. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the matter, extracted verbatim from the report of the third meeting of the Advisory Committee,³ are contained in the next section. The Conference of the Parties, under agenda item 11, may wish to take note of the report of the third meeting of the Advisory Committee and of the recommendations contained therein. It may also wish to take that information into account in its deliberations under agenda item 9, on digital sequence information on genetic resources.

II. Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization

7. In decision 15/7, the Advisory Committee was mandated to develop recommendations regarding the adequate entity to receive and disburse the revenue to be generated by the mechanism established under decision 15/9. Specifically, it was tasked to explore whether and how those functions could be assigned to: (a) a dedicated financing mechanism for the Convention under the authority of the Conference of the Parties; (b) the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund established under the Global Environment Facility; or (c) another alternative.

8. The Advisory Committee considers that form should follow function. The identification of the adequate entity to receive and disburse the revenue to be generated from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, as mandated in decision 15/7, should therefore be determined, *inter alia*, by the functions that the Conference of the Parties may decide to attribute to the fund.

9. In its recommendation 2/1, the Working Group put forward several options regarding how the revenue to be generated from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources could be received and disbursed. It will be for the Conference of the Parties to decide among these options, or on a combination of them.

10. Using the draft report of the Working Group on its second meeting as a basis, the Advisory Committee, at its third meeting, reflected on possible criteria that might need to be met by any potential entity for the digital sequence information on genetic resources fund for each possible combination of collection and disbursement options. While the members of the Advisory Committee did not reach a consensual recommendation regarding which specific entity would be the most adequate to receive and disburse the revenue to be generated from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, the information that was provided to it and the rich exchanges among experts, which are reflected in the report on its third meeting, may be helpful to inform discussions under agenda item 9.

11. The Advisory Committee underscores that, owing to significant time constraints and the large number of options contained in recommendation 2/1 of the Working Group, it could not examine all possible combinations in depth. The Advisory Committee considers that further discussions by the

¹ CBD/SBI/4/5.

² CBD/COP/16/2.

³ CBD/RM/AC/2024/2/2.

Conference of the Parties under agenda item 9 regarding the adequate entity for the digital sequence information on genetic resources fund could benefit from additional information.
