



Convention on Biological Diversity

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ENGLISH ONLY

INFORMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE

Fourth meeting
Montreal, Canada, 2-4 December 2019

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. Article 14 of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization establishes an Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House (ABS Clearing-House) as part of the clearing-house mechanism under Article 18, paragraph 3, of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
2. At its first meeting the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol established an informal advisory committee to assist the Executive Secretary with the implementation of the ABS Clearing-House and to provide technical guidance with respect to the resolution of technical and practical issues arising from the ongoing development of the ABS Clearing-House.
3. At its third meeting, Parties to the Protocol expressed appreciation for the work done and decided that the Informal Advisory Committee would continue its work and hold at least one meeting during this intersessional period, as well as informal online discussions as needed, and report on the outcomes of its work to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its fourth meeting ([decision NP-3/3, para. 8](#)).
4. As that a number of countries have become Parties to the Nagoya Protocol and some members of the Informal Advisory Committee have departed since the Committee was last established, there was a need to renew the composition of the Committee for this intersessional period on the basis of new nominations from Parties to the Protocol.
5. A notification ([2019-052](#)) was issued on 30 May 2019 inviting Parties to nominate an expert for the Informal Advisory Committee. From the nominations received, with due regard to regional and gender balance, 14 experts were selected on the basis of their experience and involvement with the ABS Clearing-House. The new composition of the Informal Advisory Committee was announced in a notification ([2019-082](#)) dated 25 September 2019.
6. The fourth meeting of the Committee will be held in Montreal, Canada, from 2 to 4 December 2019. A list of relevant documents for this meeting is contained in annex I. The documents will be made available on the Secretariat's website at <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/NP-ABSCH-IAC-2019-01>.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

7. The meeting will be opened by the Executive Secretary or her representative at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 2 December 2019.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

8. Participants will be invited to elect a chair for the meeting.

9. The Informal Advisory Committee will also be invited to adopt the agenda for the meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (CBD/NP/ABSCH-IAC/2019/1/1) and to consider the proposed organization of work as contained in annex II.

10. The language of the meeting will be English.

ITEM 3. REPORT ON PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE

11. Under this item, the Secretariat will report on progress made in the implementation and administration of the ABS Clearing-House since the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in relation to the following goals and priorities that were agreed at that meeting:

- (a) Increase the use and the information available in the ABS Clearing-House (goal 1);
- (b) Translation and functionality for operationalizing the ABS Clearing-House in the six official languages of the United Nations (goal 2);
- (c) Maintain and improve functionality (goal 3);
- (d) Integration with the clearing-house mechanism (goal 4).

12. The Informal Advisory Committee may wish to consider CBD/NP/ABSCH-IAC/2019/1/2, section II, as a basis for its discussion on this agenda item.

ITEM 5. TECHNICAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES RELATED TO THE SYSTEM FOR MONITORING THE UTILIZATION OF GENETIC RESOURCES THROUGH THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE

13. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present an overview of progress made in the implementation of the Protocol's system to monitor the utilization of genetic resources through the ABS Clearing-House, including an analysis of the internationally recognized certificates of compliance and checkpoint communiqués available in the ABS Clearing-House.

14. At the third meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, Parties requested the Executive Secretary to continue providing technical assistance for the submission of information on the ABS Clearing-House, including by increasing understanding of the functioning of the system for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources (see NP-3/1, para. 21 (c)). With generous support provided by the Government of Japan, the European Union and the Government of Germany, the Global Capacity-building Workshop on Monitoring the Utilization of Genetic Resources under the Nagoya Protocol was held in Bonn from 30 September to 2 October 2019. The workshop provided the opportunity to raise awareness, build capacity and share practical experiences regarding the implementation of the provisions of the Protocol related to monitoring the utilization of genetic resources with a view to helping to overcome the practical challenges of implementation as Parties build and improve their national ABS systems.

15. The members of the Informal Advisory Committee will be invited to share their experiences with the use of the ABS Clearing-House and its tools to support the Protocol's system for monitoring utilization of genetic resources.

16. The report of the workshop (CBD/NP/CB/WS/2019/1/2) and section III of document CBD/NP/ABSCH-IAC/2019/1/2 highlight a number of practical issues that this committee may wish to consider as a basis for discussions on this topic.

ITEM 6. PRIORITIES FOR FURTHER WORK

17. Under this item, the Informal Advisory Committee will be invited to consider section IV of document CBD/NP/ABSCH-IAC/2019/1/2 and to provide the Executive Secretary with advice on priorities identified for further implementation and administration of the ABS Clearing-House.

ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

18. Under this agenda item, the Informal Advisory Committee will be invited to raise any relevant issues that were not addressed under the other items.

ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

19. The Informal Advisory Committee will be invited to consider and adopt its report.

ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

20. It is expected that the meeting will close at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 4 December 2019.

Annex I

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

A. Working documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
CBD/NP/ABSCH-IAC/2019/1/1	Provisional agenda
CBD/NP/ABSCH-IAC/2019/1/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
CBD/NP/ABSCH-IAC/2019/1/2	Report on progress and priorities for future implementation and administration of the ABS Clearing-House

B. Information documents

Decision NP-3/3	The Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House (Article 14)
CBD/NP/CB/WS/2019/1/2	Report of the Global Capacity-building Workshop on Monitoring the Utilization of Genetic Resources under the Nagoya Protocol

Annex II

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
Monday, 2 December 2019	
9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Item 1. Opening of the meeting Item 2. Organizational matters Item 3. Report on progress in the implementation and administration of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House
1 – 2 p.m.	<i>Break</i>
2 – 5.30 p.m.	Item 3. <i>(Continued)</i>
Tuesday, 3 December 2019	
9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Item 4. Technical and practical issues related to the system for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources through the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House
1 – 2 p.m.	<i>Break</i>
2 - 5.30 p.m.	Item 4. <i>(Continued)</i> Item 5. Priorities for further work
Wednesday, 4 December 2019	
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Item 5. <i>(Continued)</i> Item 6. Other matters
1 – 2 p.m.	<i>Break</i>
2 - 5 p.m.	Item 7. Adoption of the report Item 8. Closure of the meeting
