



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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ENGLISH ONLY

AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON  
DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION ON  
GENETIC RESOURCES  
Montreal, Canada, 13-16 February 2018

### ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

#### INTRODUCTION

1. With financial support from Canada and the European Union, a meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources will be convened at the offices of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity from 13 to 16 February 2018. Registration of participants will take place upon arrival at the meeting venue, starting at 9.00 a.m. on the opening day.
2. An information note containing details regarding logistical arrangements for the meeting, including registration, information on travel, visa requirements, accommodation and other matters will be available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/DSI-AHTEG-2018-01>.

#### BACKGROUND

3. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its thirteenth meeting and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing at its second meeting each adopted decisions on digital sequence information on genetic resources in which they recognized the need for a coordinated and non-duplicative approach on this matter under the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol (decisions XIII/16 and NP-2/14, respectively). They decided to consider, at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the third meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, any potential implications of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources for the three objectives of the Convention, and for the objective of the Nagoya Protocol, respectively.
4. The Parties also agreed on a process to facilitate consideration of this matter. The process included:
  - (a) An invitation to Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations and stakeholders to submit views and relevant information to the Executive Secretary on the potential implications of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources for the three objectives of the Convention (decision XIII/16, para. 2);
  - (b) An invitation to Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations and stakeholders to include information relevant to the Nagoya Protocol in the views and information submitted (decision NP-2/14, para. 2);
  - (c) A request to the Executive Secretary to prepare a compilation and synthesis of the views and information submitted, including the information gathered from engagement with relevant ongoing processes and policy debates (decision XIII/16, para. 3(a); see also para. 16 below);
  - (d) A request to the Executive Secretary to commission a fact-finding and scoping study to clarify terminology and concepts and to assess the extent and the terms and conditions of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources in the context of the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol;

(e) The establishment of an ad hoc technical expert group and a request to the Executive Secretary to convene a meeting of the group in accordance with the terms of reference contained in the annex to decision XIII/16.

5. The terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources provide that the group shall:

(a) Consider the compilation, synthesis and the study referred to in paragraphs 3(a) and (b) of the decision in order to examine any potential implications of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources for the three objectives of the Convention and the objective of the Nagoya Protocol and implementation to achieve these objectives;

(b) Consider the technical scope and legal and scientific implications of existing terminology related to digital sequence information on genetic resources;

(c) Identify the different types of digital sequence information on genetic resources that are relevant to the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol;

(d) Meet at least once face-to-face, subject to the availability of financial resources, prior to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and make use of online tools to facilitate its work, as appropriate;

(e) Submit its outcomes for consideration by a meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to be held prior to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

6. In decision NP-2/14, paragraph 5, the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol decided that the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) would also serve the Nagoya Protocol by considering the information relevant to the Protocol in the compilation, synthesis and study prepared in accordance with decision XIII/16, paragraph 3.

7. Decision XIII/16 requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the outcomes of the AHTEG and to make a recommendation on the potential implications of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources for the three objectives of the Convention for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting (para. 5). Similarly, decision NP-2/14 requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the outcomes of the AHTEG and to make a recommendation on the potential implications of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources for the objective of the Nagoya Protocol for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol as its third meeting (para. 7).

8. Furthermore, in decision NP-2/5 on cooperation with other international organizations, conventions and initiatives, the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol requested the Executive Secretary to continue to engage with relevant ongoing processes and policy debates to collect information on current discussions on the relationship between the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources and access and benefit-sharing arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, and to include relevant information gathered during these engagements in the compilation of views referred to in paragraph 4(c) above.

9. In notification 2017-37 of 25 April 2017, the Executive Secretary set out the tentative timeline for the implementation of the activities foreseen in decisions XIII/16 and NP-2/14. The notification also invited the submission of views and information pursuant to paragraph 2 of decision XIII/16 and paragraph 2 of decision NP-2/14.

10. By notification 2017-049 of 12 June 2017, Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant organizations and stakeholders were invited to nominate experts to the AHTEG. The experts were selected in accordance with the consolidated modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (see decision VIII/10, annex III), taking into account their expertise and experience and the need to ensure equitable geographical

distribution and gender balance. Following consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the composition of the AHTEG was announced in notification 2017-109 of 20 October 2017.

11. As requested in decision XIII/16, and with funding from Canada, the European Union and Switzerland, the Executive Secretary commissioned a fact-finding and scoping study to clarify terminology and concepts and to assess the extent and the terms and conditions of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources in the context of the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol. A draft of the study was made available online for peer review from 8 November to 1 December 2017.

#### **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

12. The meeting will be opened by the Executive Secretary or her representative at 9:30 am on Tuesday, 13 February 2018.

#### **ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

13. The experts will be invited to elect a Chair or Co-Chairs for the meeting.

14. The experts will also be invited to adopt the agenda for the meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (CBD/DSI/AHTEG/2018/1/1). The experts may wish to consider the proposed organization of work as contained in annex I below. The meeting will be conducted in English.

15. A list of documents for the meeting is contained in annex II below. The documents will be made available on the Secretariat's website at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/DSI-AHTEG-2018-01>.

#### **ITEM 3. CONSIDERATION OF TERMINOLOGY AND ANY POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION ON GENETIC RESOURCES FOR THE THREE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION AND THE OBJECTIVE OF THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL**

16. As indicated in paragraph 4(c) above, the Executive Secretary was requested to prepare a compilation and synthesis of the views and information submitted pursuant to paragraph 2 of decision XIII/16 and paragraph 2 of decision NP-2/14. By notification 2017-37 of 25 April 2017, the Executive Secretary invited the submission of views and information. The full text of the submissions is available online at <https://www.cbd.int/abs/dsi-gr/ahteg.shtml#submissions>. The synthesis will be made available as CBD/DSI/AHTEG/2018/1/2.

17. In addition, the Executive Secretary commissioned a fact-finding and scoping study to clarify terminology and concepts and to assess the extent and the terms and conditions of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources in the context of the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol.

18. A draft of the study was made available online for peer review. The peer review comments received will be available online at: <https://www.cbd.int/abs/dsi-gr/ahteg.shtml>.

19. The study was finalized in the light of the comments received and will be made available for the consideration of the AHTEG as CBD/AHTEG/DSI/2018/1/3.

##### **3.1. Terminology and different types of digital sequence information on genetic resources**

20. In adopting the decisions on digital sequence information on genetic resources, the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol footnoted the term "digital sequence information" to indicate that terminology was subject to further discussion in the study and the expert group.

21. Under this agenda item, the experts will:

(a) Consider the technical scope and legal and scientific implications of existing terminology related to digital sequence information on genetic resources;

(b) Identify the different types of digital sequence information on genetic resources that are relevant to the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol.

22. To fulfil these tasks, the experts will be invited to consider the relevant sections of the synthesis and the study.

**3.2. Potential implications of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources for conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components**

23. Under this item, the experts will examine any potential implications of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources for the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components.

24. The experts will be invited to consider the relevant parts of the study and the synthesis.

**3.3. Potential implications of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources**

25. Under this item, the experts will examine any potential implications of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

26. The experts will be invited to consider the relevant parts of the study and the synthesis.

**ITEM 4. OTHER MATTERS**

27. Under this item, experts may raise any other matter relevant to the meeting.

**ITEM 5. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

28. The experts will be invited to consider and adopt their report, which will be made available for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-second meeting, to be held from 2 to 7 July 2018 in Montreal, Canada.

**ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

29. The meeting is expected to close at 5.30 p.m. on Friday, 16 February 2018.

*Annex I*

**PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

<i>Date/time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<b>Tuesday, 13 February 2018</b>	
9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Item 1. Opening of the meeting. Item 2. Organizational matters. Item 3. Consideration of terminology and potential implications of digital sequence information on genetic resources for the three objectives of the Convention and the objective of the Nagoya Protocol.
2.30 to 5.30 p.m.	Item 3.1. Terminology and different types of digital sequence information on genetic resources.
<b>Wednesday, 14 February 2018</b>	
9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Item 3.2. Potential implications of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources for conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components.
2.30 to 5.30 p.m.	Item 3.3. Potential implications of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
<b>Thursday, 15 February 2018</b>	
9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Item 3.1, 3.2 and 3.2 ( <i>Continued</i> )
2.30 to 5.30 p.m.	Item 3 ( <i>Continued, review of draft conclusions</i> )
<b>Friday, 16 February 2018</b>	
9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Item 4. Other matters.
2.30 to 5.30 p.m.	Item 5. Adoption of the report. Item 6. Closure of the meeting.

*Annex II*

**PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
CBD/DSI/AHTEG/2018/1/1	Provisional agenda
CBD/DSI/AHTEG/2018/1/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
CBD/DSI/AHTEG/2018/1/2	Synthesis of views and information on the potential implications of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources for the three objectives of the Convention and the objective of the Nagoya Protocol
CBD/DSI/AHTEG/2018/1/3	Fact-finding and scoping study on digital sequence information on genetic resources

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