

<i>Item 5</i>	<i>Contact group 5</i>	<i>1 September 2021</i>
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**CO-LEADS' SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION OF THE CONTACT GROUP REGARDING
AREAS OF POTENTIAL CONVERGENCE AND OF APPARENT DIVERGENCE ON
DIGITAL SEQUENCE INFORMATION ON GENETIC RESOURCES**

1. The present summary has been prepared by the co-leads of the contact group on item 5, Ms. Lactitia Tshitwamulomoni (South Africa) and Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hanssen (Norway), based on a discussion held during the contact group's second session, on 26 August 2021 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm EST (Montreal time). The summary was not negotiated by Parties and represents the co-leads' impression of some of the main views expressed during the discussion on potential areas of convergence and of apparent divergence regarding digital sequence information on genetic resources (DSI). The summary is not exhaustive; it was prepared with a view to facilitating possible further work and consideration of DSI at the resumed session of the Working Group. The main elements of the discussion, as summarized by the co-leads, are presented below in no particular order.
 2. The contact group acknowledged the importance of adopting a post-2020 global biodiversity framework and heard many views acknowledging that digital sequence information on genetic resources should be reflected in the text of the framework. The contact group also heard views favouring the inclusion in the global biodiversity framework of a solution to address DSI.
 3. Most views expressed support for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, although the options, approaches or modalities identified in this regard varied greatly.
 4. The co-leads note a clear convergence of views on the importance of the role of indigenous peoples and local communities and of the need to take this into account in considering benefit-sharing from the use of DSI.
 5. The contact group acknowledged the importance of ensuring legal certainty for both users and providers of DSI.
 6. The contact group acknowledged the importance of DSI for scientific research and innovation, the contribution of DSI to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the importance of DSI for human, animal and plant health.
 7. Furthermore, the co-leads note that the contact group seemed to converge on the importance of open access to DSI in general, though the interpretation of "open access" differed, as further noted in paragraph 10 below.
 8. The contact group acknowledged the importance and/or contribution of DSI to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
 9. The co-leads note a clear convergence of views supporting the need for and importance of capacity-building for all stakeholders, based on needs, including for the generation, analysis and use of DSI.
 10. With regard to areas of apparent divergence, the co-leads note that divergent views were expressed regarding "open access" to DSI and whether access should be free, restricted or unrestricted, regulated or unregulated, subject to free, prior and informed consent for at least some groups, such as indigenous peoples and local communities, for all, or not permitted at all.
 11. Furthermore, as mentioned above, while there seemed to be a potential area of convergence on the need for fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, there was an apparent divergence on the options, approaches or modalities of such benefit-sharing. Further work on options, approaches or modalities to address the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of DSI could be envisaged prior to the resumed session of the Working Group.
 12. Other elements raised in the discussion included the importance of traceability of DSI and the importance of determining an appropriate term for DSI.
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