



Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SERVING AS THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE NAGOYA
PROTOCOL ON ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES
AND THE FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF
BENEFITS ARISING FROM THEIR UTILIZATION

Third meeting

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17-29 November 2018

Agenda item 10

THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE AND INFORMATION SHARING (ARTICLE 14)

Draft decision submitted by the Chair of Working Group I

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol

1. *Welcomes* progress made by the Secretariat in the implementation and operation of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House;¹
2. *Welcomes* the efforts made by Parties, non-Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders to make information available in the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House;
3. *Urges* Parties that have not yet done so to publish all mandatory information available at the national level on the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House in accordance with the obligations in Article 14, paragraph 2, of the Protocol, as soon as possible, considering that the publication of mandatory information in the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House is essential for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol;
4. *Urges* Parties to provide information on their national access and benefit-sharing procedures through the voluntary common format on procedures, as available in the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House;
5. *Takes* note of the list of goals and priorities for the further implementation and administration of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House for the biennium 2019-2020 contained in annex to the present decision;
6. *Endorses* the joint modalities of operation for the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, the Biosafety Clearing-House and the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, contained in the annex of the decision 14/--, which are complementary to the modalities of operation of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol in decision [NP-1/2](#).²

¹ CBD/NP/MOP/3/8.

² A similar decision will be considered by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its ninth meeting.

7. *Expresses* appreciation for the technical guidance provided by the Informal Advisory Committee;

8. *Decides* that the Informal Advisory Committee will hold at least one meeting and 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 Nagoya Protocol at its fourth meeting;

9. *Invites* Parties, non-Parties, and relevant organizations to make use of the interoperability mechanisms of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House to facilitate information exchange with their relevant databases, websites and information technology systems;

10. *Invites* Parties, non-Parties, and relevant organizations, as appropriate, to include capacity-building activities related to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House into their relevant capacity-building activities, plans and projects in coordination with the Executive Secretary;

11. *Invites* Parties, non-Parties, relevant international organizations, regional development banks and other financial institutions, as appropriate, to support capacity-building activities related to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, including the Protocol's system for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to implement and administer the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House by following the goals and priorities for the further implementation and administration of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House contained in annex to the present decision, in accordance with the modalities of operation and feedback received, in particular that of Parties and of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House.

Annex

GOALS AND PRIORITIES FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE BY THE SECRETARIAT

Goal 1. Population and increased use of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House

Outreach and engagement

- (a) Ensure that each Party has designated its publishing authority;
- (b) Encourage and assist with the publication of all available national information, in particular competent national authorities, access and benefit-sharing measures, access and benefit-sharing procedures, and internationally recognized certificates of compliance, as necessary;
- (c) Engage with indigenous peoples and local communities and other relevant stakeholders and organizations to encourage submission of reference records;
- (d) Provide regular ABS Clearing-House announcements on updates and changes as well as related information for ABS Clearing-House users, in particular national focal points, publishing authorities and national authorized users;

Capacity-building

- (a) Disseminate and promote the use of the ABS Clearing-House capacity-building resources, including the e-learning module and step-by-step guides;
- (b) Translate capacity-building resources developed by the Executive Secretary for the ABS Clearing-House and make them available in all official languages of the United Nations;
- (c) Continue to provide face-to-face training (subject to available funding), as well as remote training upon request, as needed;

(d) Collaborate with partners developing capacity-building projects to ensure they include relevant activities to support and promote the use of the ABS Clearing-House;

(e) Raise awareness of the ABS Clearing-House among indigenous peoples and local communities and other relevant stakeholders, such as the business and scientific communities;

(f) Raise awareness of the ABS Clearing-House in relevant international forums dealing with ABS-related issues;

Interoperability and collaboration

(a) Continue to raise awareness and support capacity-building regarding the use of the interoperability mechanisms such as the application programming interface (API) including by providing relevant documentation, such as lessons learned and examples;

(b) Facilitate the exchange of information with relevant national databases and systems;

(c) Explore how the Bioland Tool for National Clearing-House Mechanisms can be used to facilitate the exchange of information related to access and benefit-sharing;

(d) Continue to collaborate with relevant instruments and initiatives (such as the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture–Global Information System, InforMEA, World Federation for Culture Collections);

Goal 2. Translation and functionality for operationalizing the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House in the six official languages of the United Nations

(a) Continue the translation of the ABS Clearing-House as a top priority;

(b) Ensure that mechanisms and standard procedures remain in place to enable website translation to continue in a timely fashion;

Goal 3. Maintenance and improvement of functionality

(a) Maintain and improve functionalities and finalize remaining issues;

(b) Finalize documentation of the application programming interface, the main mechanism for interoperability;

(c) Improve search functionality in order to sort and group records, as well as explore, analyse and present the published information in meaningful ways, including information related to capacity-building, including with the use of maps, charts and graphs, as appropriate;

(d) Improve management of the common vocabularies (thesaurus), including how information is tagged with keywords to improve the retrieval of information;

(e) Enhance website analytics to include tracking downloads and views of individual records and the files attached to them and provide national users with the relevant analytics and information;

(f) Improve functionality to allow the easy updating of records that include references to older versions of records;

Goal 4. Integration with the clearing-house mechanism

(a) Continue to support the implementation of CBD web strategy;

(b) Support the integration of the central clearing-house of the Convention and the Biosafety Clearing-House with the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House under a single platform in order to ensure a coordinated approach to web development and related information technology infrastructure.