



Convention on Biological Diversity

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**Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on
Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital
Sequence Information on Genetic Resources
First meeting
Geneva, 14–18 November 2023
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Issues for further consideration set out
in the annex to decision 15/9**

Initial information from the commissioned studies

Note by the Secretariat

1. In subparagraphs 22 (b) and (c) of decision [15/9](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary to commission two studies, namely:
 - (a) A study to analyse and model the extent to which a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, and any other options the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources may decide, meets the criteria set forth in paragraphs 9 and 10 of decision 15/9;
 - (b) A study on the options for revenue-generating measures at different points along the value chain, the feasibility of their implementation and their costs relative to their potential revenue.
2. With the generous financial support of the Governments of Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as the European Commission, the Secretariat is currently in the process of commissioning the studies.
3. The topics of the studies are interlinked; accordingly, the two studies have been combined into a single procurement contract and are to be undertaken by the successful bidder in a coordinated and integrated manner.
4. The Secretariat of the Convention has the authority to procure contracts up to a value of \$10,000. As the value of the study contract is expected to exceed that amount, procurement is being undertaken through the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi. United Nations procurement rules are complex and involve lengthy procedures; however, the Secretariat is following up the process closely, and it is expected that a contract to undertake the studies will be finalized soon.
5. It is stipulated in the terms of reference that the studies will need to include the following elements:

* CBD/WGDSI/1/1.

(a) A global coverage, comprising the five United Nations regions, and gender representation;

(b) Data from industries using digital sequence information on genetic resources in their research, processes or products;

(c) An explanation and analysis of potential points of revenue generation along the value chain of products, and the potential capacity, benefits, challenges and approaches of industries to contribute to a benefit-sharing mechanism;

(d) An analysis of other potential options for revenue generation, including voluntary contributions;

(e) An analysis and modelling of the multilateral mechanism and other options, or a combination of options, against the criteria set forth in paragraphs 9 and 10 of decision 15/9;

(f) A summary of all assumptions and gaps in data.

6. The Secretariat will convey relevant outcomes of the present meeting of the Working Group to the team working on the studies, to help it with its research.

7. It is also specified in the terms of reference that the successful bidder must put together a team of researchers with expertise in a range of areas, including economics, international finance and fund management, fund distribution mechanisms, law and biology. Bidders are also required to comply with the United Nations Supplier Code of Conduct and the United Nations General Conditions of Contract, including with regard to conflicts of interest.

8. Once work on the studies is under way, it is expected that a draft will be made available for peer review. The studies will then be finalized and made available for the second meeting of the Working Group, in August 2024.
