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Informal Advisory Committee to the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House

Fifth meeting

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Items 3, 4 and 5 of the provisional agenda*

Report on progress

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Report on progress

I. Introduction

1. Under Article 14 of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, an Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) Clearing-House is established as part of the clearing-house mechanism provided under [Article 18](#), paragraph 3, of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

2. In its decision [NP-4/4](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol requested the Executive Secretary, taking into account the progress already made, to continue to develop and administer the ABS Clearing-House following the goals and priorities for the further development and administration of the Clearing-House as found in the annex to decision [NP-3/3](#), in accordance with the modalities of operation¹ and feedback received, particularly that of Parties and of the Informal Advisory Committee to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House. The present report contains an update on the Clearing-House, including suggestions for future work.

II. Progress on the implementation and administration of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House

3. The present section contains an overview of progress made in the implementation and administration of the ABS Clearing-House from December 2022 to December 2023. The section is structured along the goals and priorities contained in the annex to decision [NP-3/3](#).

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

4. The ABS Clearing-House plays a crucial role in fulfilling the fundamental obligation of sharing information, as mandated under the Protocol. The commitment to information exchange is further emphasized in both the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its monitoring framework, as well as in decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as

* CBD/NP/ABSCH-IAC/2024/1/1.

¹ Decision [NP-1/2](#), annex.

the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol at its fourth meeting. It highlights the pivotal role of the Clearing-House in facilitating access and benefit-sharing and actively monitoring progress toward achieving the shared goals of the Nagoya Protocol, the Framework and the Convention.

5. Consequently, during the reporting period, the Secretariat focused its efforts on enhancing the quantity, quality and use of national information available on the ABS Clearing-House.

(a) Information records

6. Between December 2022 and December 2023, approximately 875 national records were added, bringing the total to 5,855 national records. In addition, five countries started publishing national records, increasing the total of countries that have published at least one national record on the ABS Clearing-House to 95.

7. The number of reference records also increased by 52, from 396 to 448. This increase is largely attributed to the publication of 48 capacity-building and development records.

8. Further information on the number of national and reference records published annually is provided in annex I, while a comprehensive review of progress made in publishing national records is provided in document CBD/NP/ABSCH-IAC/2024/1/3.

(b) Use of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House

9. The ABS Clearing-House uses the Google website analytics service,² which offers essential metrics regarding the website usage.

10. In general, the number of visitors to the ABS Clearing-House website continued to grow. On average, there were 975 visitors per week in 2023, an increase from about 882 visitors per week in 2022.

11. In terms of the types of devices used, the number of visitors using a mobile device (cell phone or tablet) also continued to grow and rose to about 20 per cent, an increase of 5 per cent compared with the previous reporting period.

12. Between 1 July and 1 December 2023, there were approximately 14,000 new visitors. Some 67 per cent of them originated in the following 10 countries, in decreasing order of visitors: United States of America, Germany, Japan, France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, India, Republic of Korea, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), China and Switzerland.

13. An improved alert system was introduced in December 2022 to send regular notifications to users of the ABS Clearing-House on request, regarding new and updated records according to their selected criteria and frequency (daily, weekly or monthly). As at 5 December 2023, users had set up a total of 165 scheduled email alerts.³

(c) Outreach, training and capacity-building

14. The Secretariat continued to provide proactive outreach and technical support on demand, in particular to Parties, to increase the quantity, quality and use of the information in the ABS Clearing-House, following the same approach as that taken in the past. Such work consists mostly of welcoming new national focal points and publishing authorities and providing them with information about national information-sharing obligations, offering online training and technical support on demand, monitoring national implementation, following up on the publication of available national information, responding to questions and providing technical support.

15. On 11 December 2022, during the main second part of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat held an in-person workshop, with support from the Japan Biodiversity

² Beginning on 1 July 2023, Google analytics has changed how analytics are collected and the definitions for certain metrics, which may lead to discrepancies when comparing recent data with data collected before then.

³ To configure and receive email alerts, users need an ABS Clearing-House account. Accounts may be opened by anyone.

Fund, on new ABS features and progress on implementation made by countries.⁴ The event allowed for discussions among various ABS stakeholders on needs and challenges in the implementation of the Protocol related to the ABS Clearing-House.

16. In addition, to reach a wider audience and address questions from ABS Clearing-House users more effectively, the Secretariat conducted several online activities, namely, 10 monthly question-and-answer webinars,⁵ four regional workshops and 10 individual sessions with ABS national focal points and country representatives. The activities were aimed at supporting capacity-building related to the implementation of the Protocol and providing training and technical support for the Clearing-House.

17. The question-and-answer webinars, which were open to all stakeholders, were organized around various subjects. Instead of responding to questions individually, the Secretariat collected questions related to specific topics throughout the month and responded to them collectively during a comprehensive webinar at the end of each month. Whenever possible, the webinars were recorded and made accessible through the ABS Clearing-House. The questions received will also contribute to the improvement and expansion of the frequently asked questions section in the knowledge base.

18. For the most part, the question-and-answer webinars were conducted in English. To reach a wider audience and engage with underserved regions, however, the Secretariat also held workshops in French, Portuguese and Spanish, as well as a workshop for Pacific island countries, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme. The workshops were aimed at promoting knowledge-sharing among national focal points, address questions and gain a better understanding of progress made and difficulties and challenges faced by Parties in implementing the Protocol and publishing mandatory information on the ABS Clearing-House. The webinars helped to highlight several common issues and challenges, as listed below:

(a) Some countries face issues related to frequent staff turnover, a lack of institutional memory, knowledge management and training;

(b) In some countries, the process of implementing the Protocol is stagnant and lacks political will, support, commitment and consistent leadership to follow through on key steps in a timely manner, such as adopting ABS measures;

(c) Some countries are apprehensive about publishing information on the ABS Clearing-House while they are in the process of amending, updating or developing new measures, which can take several years and requires political will, support and consistent leadership;

(d) Some countries have adopted ABS legislation but may not have communicated their procedures clearly to users, as it may require translating national legislation into user-friendly and workable ABS procedures to guide users through obligations and developing information systems to support ABS processes;

(e) Some countries that are beginning to issue ABS permits lack the capacity and resources to set up electronic or organized systems for storing, managing and monitoring permits;

(f) Some Parties reported high levels of illegal access and the need to establish a process for regularizing access that has already happened in order to bring benefits back to the country;

(g) Some countries reported difficulties related to internal coordination and communication among multiple national ABS authorities operating in parallel, such as competent national authorities

⁴ See CBD/NP/CB/WS/2019/1/2 for the report of the workshop.

⁵ The list of the topics covered and access to the webinar recordings can be found at <https://absch.cbd.int/en/kb/tags/absch-announcement/ABSCH-Q-A-Webinar-Recordings/651d828cfca0e531e22cd7d3>.

under various ministries, especially in cases where the roles and relationship between authorities and the ABS national focal point were not clearly defined.

(h) Some countries are unclear about what constitutes an ABS permit and what does not, for example, whether basic research permits could be published on the ABS Clearing-House or whether permits issued before the ratification or entry into force of the Protocol could be published as internationally recognized certificates of compliance;

(i) Some countries continue to lack a comprehensive understanding of how checkpoints and checkpoint communiqués function under the Protocol.

19. Many of the aforementioned challenges have been highlighted in other documents, including the first assessment and review of the implementation of the Protocol, and are not directly related to the implementation and administration of the ABS Clearing-House. During the webinars some countries recognized that national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework may offer opportunities for renewing political will, reviewing ABS approaches and policy goals, and finding sources of funding. Additionally, these challenges may need to be taken into consideration at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, under the discussions on other policy issues.

20. The Secretariat is actively collaborating with partners⁶ in its capacity-building efforts to increase the use of the ABS Clearing-House and enhance the quality and quantity of information available. To that end, and in collaboration with partners and with the support of the Japan Biodiversity Fund and Germany, the Secretariat will organize a global ABS workshop in Bonn, in September 2024.

21. The workshop will be aimed at catalysing action on the implementation of the Protocol and information-sharing during the present intersessional period. It will primarily serve to showcase experience gained from projects that can be used as a model for countries in implementing and communicating efficient and user-friendly procedures for setting up ABS information systems for permitting, management and monitoring, as well as tools to support compliance and the monitoring of utilization of genetic resources.

22. The workshop will bring together a minimum of 60 participants. Parties will be invited to nominate participants for selection by the Secretariat, in February 2024, on the basis on their involvement in relevant and reproducible implementation actions and projects. Regional and gender balance will also be taken into account when selecting participants.

(d) Interoperability

23. To support the work of Parties and capacity-building partners leading up to the global ABS workshop, the Secretariat, with support from the European Union, has been working on a project to improve the ABS Clearing-House interoperability mechanisms. Although only one Party has established interoperability with the Clearing-House to date, several have put systems in place, or are developing them, to manage ABS permits. The project is aimed at supporting those countries in developing and improving their ABS information systems by connecting them with the Clearing-House to publish information in an efficient manner.

24. Work carried out to enhance the functionality and interoperability of the ABS Clearing-House over the present intersessional period includes:

(a) Simplifying the ABS Clearing-House application programming interface, by reducing the number of steps required for common tasks, to improve usability and facilitate integration with national permitting systems;

⁶ E.g. the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the Access and Benefit-Sharing Capacity Development Initiative and the German Nagoya Protocol Hub.

(b) Improving documentation on the application programming interface, by enhancing documentation and examples in the interface, with a particular focus on support for the integration of national ABS permitting and monitoring systems;

(c) Enhancing existing tools, by improving existing tools, such as spreadsheets and bulk upload options, batch approval features and enhanced search functionality in draft records. The enhancements will assist countries in managing and publishing ABS permits on the ABS Clearing-House efficiently;

(d) Implementing an application programming interface registration system to track the use of the interface, thereby contributing to a more robust and monitorable system;

(e) Making adjustments to the application programming interface to better support the European Union Declare system;

(f) Providing technical and practical advice to support the development of permitting and monitoring systems that are interoperable with the ABS Clearing-House;

(g) Organizing practical training and information webinars to showcase recent improvements in the ABS Clearing-House interoperability systems;

(h) Developing and growing an active community of ABS Clearing-House interoperability users and capacity-building partners to share experiences and support interoperability work;

(i) Supporting the development of funding proposals for national ABS permitting and monitoring systems;

(j) Coordinating other efforts undertaken under the Convention to improve the interoperability of its clearing-house mechanisms and contribute to support for monitoring progress on the achievement of the Framework and other biodiversity interoperability work.

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

25. The Secretariat is currently working on the ongoing translation of the ABS Clearing-House website and on improving mechanisms that facilitate translation. To date, approximately 90 per cent of the Clearing-House web pages have been made available into the six official languages of the United Nations. In addition, a system has been put in place to easily translate the help and documentation information found in the Clearing-House knowledge base.⁷

26. The improvements to the translation system also support the Convention website and the Biosafety Clearing-House. The migration of the Biosafety Clearing-House onto the ABS Clearing-House platform has reduced overall costs related to translation and development. For example, the similar look of the websites and overlapping functionality have allowed the two systems to share more than 35 translated help articles in the knowledge base. As the functionality and features continue to be developed in an aligned manner, the potential to reduce translation, development and technical support costs will grow.

Goal 3. Maintenance and improvement of functionality

27. During the reporting period, the majority of development efforts from the Secretariat have been directed towards bug fixes, maintenance and minor improvements, with the exception of preparations for the submission of the first national report on the implementation of the Protocol through the ABS Clearing-House.

⁷ Available at <https://absch.cbd.int/en/kb>.

28. In paragraph 4 of its decision [NP-4/3](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol requested the Executive Secretary to make the guidelines and format for the first national report available through the ABS Clearing-House. The implementation of the format is currently in its final stages and going through testing.

29. The final version of the first national report is expected to be made available on the ABS Clearing-House in all United Nations official languages by March 2024.

Goal 4. Integration with the clearing-house mechanism

30. The Secretariat has continued to support the implementation of the Convention web strategy, in particular through the project to migrate and integrate the Convention clearing-house mechanism⁸ with the ABS Clearing-House and Biosafety Clearing-House platform. This work was initiated pursuant to the adoption of the joint modalities of operation annexed to decision [14/25](#) of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and its first phase will involve modernizing related clearing-house mechanism applications, standardizing Convention common formats, updating the Convention website search and keywords function and improving the interactive map.

31. A single platform for the three clearing houses, while maintaining the necessary unique features of each, can reduce costs and provide benefits and improved functionality and efficiency to all clearing-house users.

32. The work done on interoperability and integration with the Convention Clearing-House can also increase the visibility of the ABS Clearing-House information on the Convention website, such as the country profiles, the search results and functionality, as well as on websites established under the Bioland project.

III. Technical and practical issues for discussion

33. The present section contains an overview of the issues identified for discussion since the previous meeting of the Advisory Committee. The Committee is invited to consider those issues and provide advice and guidance on whether and how they may be addressed, including by establishing an updated list of priorities for future work.

A. Greater consideration for the needs and concerns of users of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House

34. Uncertainty as to whether or not a country regulates access to its genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge has long been a major issue for users and compliance authorities. Much of the uncertainty arises from the fact that many Parties have not yet published comprehensive information on their ABS legal framework on the ABS Clearing-House. For many countries, establishing a complete ABS legal framework is a lengthy process, and the revision or development of new measures can take years, or even decades. Consequently, users who visit the Clearing-House and examine a country's ABS measures are unsure as to whether they can rely on the completeness of the information provided, or whether there are measures available elsewhere that have not yet been published on the Clearing-House. This uncertainty can make more challenging the task of ensuring that or assessing whether resources have been accessed legally.

35. In 2019, the Secretariat started to develop a new "status of measures" common format, reproduced in annex II, to enhance transparency regarding available ABS measures and the development status of a country's ABS legal framework. After informal consultations with Parties, however, it became apparent that several countries, in particular those already hesitant to disclose information, were also hesitant to make use of yet another common format. It was suggested that countries that had no plans to regulate access might be less apprehensive to indicate that fact clearly on the ABS Clearing-House, thus providing some clarity on the issue.

⁸ Available at chm.cbd.int.

36. Consequently, the Secretariat decided not to finalize and make available the “status of measures” common format and chose instead to focus on promoting the publication of the ABS Clearing-House existing record types, in particular the ABS procedures. The ABS procedures are meant to support users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge in navigating ABS rules and procedures with clear and user-friendly guidance. However, during this reporting period, only two additional countries published their ABS procedures on the Clearing-House, bringing the total to 23 countries having published ABS procedures.

37. The ABS procedures common format was designed with a flexible structure to facilitate the provision of information and to accommodate variations in approaches and procedures among countries. For example, countries would have the option to add one or multiple ABS procedure records. Furthermore, many of the input fields in the common format are free-text fields, thereby allowing for significant variation in the format used and the level of detail in the information provided.

38. In addition, the ABS procedures common format has been designed to describe access procedures. However, with some modifications, that format could be extended to provide users with clear and user-friendly guidance on compliance obligations, in addition to access obligations, which could support users with understanding and complying with all national ABS obligations.

39. At the capacity-building workshop on the ABS Clearing-House held in December 2022, participants reported a series of challenges and suggested solutions to address the concerns of users, in particular with regard to understanding and following ABS rules and procedures.⁹

40. The interim national report, which was due in November 2017, contained detailed questions about access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. However, the purpose of national reports is to present a snapshot of implementation at a specific point in time, whereas national records, such as the ABS measures and procedures, are intended to be kept up to date. Owing to that difference and to the significant amount of time that has passed since its submission, the interim national report may therefore not be suitable for providing additional certainty to users.

41. At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopted the format for the first national report on the implementation of the Protocol, which will be due in February 2026 and will follow a four-year reporting cycle synchronized with the Convention reporting cycle. Other formal sources of information, such as the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the seventh and eighth national reports to be submitted under the Convention, may contain relevant information for users. Those sources, including the binary responses on the global indicators,¹⁰ may have the potential to provide additional relevant information and greater certainty on the issue of regulation and other issues related to the implementation of the Protocol.

42. Bearing in mind the fact that one of the primary goals of the ABS Clearing-House is to support users by providing clear, reliable and up-to-date information on how to comply with ABS rules and procedures and to gain access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, the Advisory Committee is invited to provide advice and guidance on ways to improve the ABS procedures common format, how relevant information from other formal sources may be used to enhance certainty and the reliability of the national information provided on the Clearing-House, and to suggest improvements to the manner in which the Clearing-House may assist in addressing the issue.

⁹ CBD/NP/CB/WS/2022/1/1, paras. 24 and 25.

¹⁰ At the time of reporting, the latest draft was available in the annex to recommendation [25/1 of the](#) Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

B. Greater clarity on competent national authorities and checkpoints

43. The responsibility of competent national authorities is defined as follows in paragraph 2 of Article 13 of the Protocol:

Each Party shall designate one or more competent national authorities on access and benefit-sharing. Competent national authorities shall, in accordance with applicable national legislative, administrative or policy measures, be responsible for granting access or, as applicable, issuing written evidence that access requirements have been met and be responsible for advising on applicable procedures and requirements for obtaining prior informed consent and entering into mutually agreed terms.

44. Some Parties have indicated that they found confusing the obligation to designate and publish a competent national authority on the ABS Clearing-House when they do not regulate access.

45. Some Parties that do not regulate access have decided not to publish a competent national authority on the ABS Clearing-House, while others have tried to meet the requirement by publishing a competent national authority the responsibilities of which may not be related to Article 13, but rather to compliance. For example, some competent national authorities have the responsibility to ensure compliance among users and to collect information from checkpoints or related to the monitoring of the use of their genetic resources abroad.

46. For some countries, the entities that ensure compliance are also designated as checkpoints. Checkpoints in the ABS Clearing-House were intended to identify the specific point in the value chain where information on the utilization of genetic resources from other countries was collected from users.

47. The checkpoint common format in the ABS Clearing-House was not meant to represent an entity or institution but to represent a specific point along the value chain where information was gathered from users. However, when examining the checkpoints published on the Clearing-House, it can be very difficult to understand at which specific point the information was gathered. Information on the specific point along the value chain, for example, “research funding” or “market authorization”, is meant to make the checkpoint communiqué more helpful to the provider country by giving an insight into the type of utilization that is occurring.

48. Many countries have also indicated responsibilities for their checkpoints related to access, the monitoring of their genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as well as multiple points along the value chain where information may be collected in the same record. Checkpoints that resemble entities or institutions may be better organized under the competent national authority common format. Clearer information on checkpoints and competent national authorities can also help Parties to better understand how the Protocol system to monitor utilization of genetic resources works.

49. To improve the information for checkpoints and competent national authorities, the following approach is proposed for the Advisory Committee’s consideration and comments:

(a) To continue to allow competent national authorities that do not have responsibilities related to Article 13 to be published, but to update the common format to allow for clear identification of responsibilities related to compliance and access;

(b) To update the checkpoint common format to ensure that records identify the specific point along the value chain from where information on the utilization of genetic resources and traditional knowledge from other countries was gathered from the user;

(c) To provide guidance and encourage Parties to update their relevant records, as necessary.

C. Increase in the number of internationally recognized certificates of compliance and checkpoint communiqués published on the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and other issues related to the monitoring of utilization of genetic resources under the Protocol

50. As indicated in document CBD/NP/ABSCH-IAC/2024/1/3, only a few Parties have published certificates and checkpoint communiqués on the ABS Clearing-House. The publication of that information on the Clearing-House is at the core of the Protocol system for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources and ensuring that benefits from such utilization are shared equitably. The number of certificates and checkpoint communiqués available are indicators of progress against Target 13, on ABS, and Goal C of the Framework.

51. The report on the global capacity-building workshop on monitoring the utilization of genetic resources under the Protocol held in October 2019 contains a list of challenges that have contributed to the low uptake by Parties.¹¹ Those challenges continue to be relevant today.

52. While many countries have operational checkpoints and available ABS permits, only a small number have been publishing the relevant information as certificates or checkpoint communiqués on the ABS Clearing-House. The Advisory Committee may wish to consider the reasons for this and provide advice and guidance on whether and how those tools can be used by more Parties.

D. Greater flexibility in designating publishing authorities

53. ABS national focal points are ultimately responsible for the national information made available for their countries on the ABS Clearing-House. In paragraph 8 of decision [NP-1/2](#), Parties are called upon and non-Parties are invited to designate one publishing authority responsible for: authorizing the publication of all national records registered in the ABS Clearing-House, and preparing draft records, as appropriate; and ensuring that the information made available on the Clearing-House is complete, non-confidential, relevant and up to date. Having one publishing authority was meant to mirror the obligation to have one national focal point and to make it easier for focal points to publish accurate and up-to-date information on the Clearing-House.

54. In many cases, the national focal point has assumed the role of publishing authority. However, some focal points, in particular those who have a more political role, have designated a person whom they work closely with to serve as the publishing authority.

55. In some Parties, the Convention national focal points are responsible for the submission of all national reports related to the Convention and its Protocols. Those Parties have requested flexibility in designating a specific publishing authority for national reports and another publishing authority for other ABS record types. In addition, because of the division of responsibilities in some countries, some Parties have designated a specific person to publish checkpoint communiqués or certificates or a specific type of records.

56. Parties that have implemented the Protocol through separate subnational jurisdictions may also benefit from greater flexibility in designating publishing authorities.

57. Allowing for the designation of more than one publishing authority responsible for a specific record type is technically feasible and the Secretariat has been accommodating such requests from Parties on a trial basis. In many countries, the roles can change quite frequently. To avoid confusion and standardize practice, it may be necessary to develop a functionality and an interface that give Parties a clear and organized way to manage publishing authority designations and the types of records that they are allowed to publish.

¹¹ CBD/NP/CB-WS/2019/2, annex I.

58. The Advisory Committee is invited to consider the issue of publishing authority designation and provide advice on updating the rules and conditions related to the designation of publishing authorities, as well as the requirements related to changes or improvements to the “user management” functionality on the ABS Clearing-House.

E. Greater clarity on access to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and consideration for the needs and concerns of indigenous peoples and local communities, in line with Articles 6, 7 and 12 of the Protocol

59. Community protocols and procedures and customary laws can be published on the ABS Clearing-House in different categories, as either a reference record or as a national record. National records, such as ABS measures or ABS procedures, are published by Governments. Reference records can be published by anyone with an account. The categories of records are displayed under separate tabs in the search, and only national records are shown on a country’s profile.

60. The common format for ABS measures includes a “type” field that gives submitters the ability to select such options as “community protocols and procedures and customary laws”; however, to date, no country has published an ABS measure of that type.

61. ABS procedures could also be used by Governments to draw greater attention to and describe the rules and procedures for gaining access to and negotiating benefit-sharing with indigenous peoples and local communities that may be found in community protocols and procedures and customary laws.

62. The Advisory Committee is invited to consider the issue of access to traditional knowledge and, if necessary, provide advice on how the ABS Clearing-House might offer greater clarity on the relationship between national records and the community protocols and procedures and customary laws. The Committee is also invited to provide advice on how the Clearing-House could be improved to better support the provisions of the Protocol regarding traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.

F. Greater clarity on how the Protocol is implemented in separate and distinct subnational jurisdictions within a country

63. The Secretariat has received comments and questions from users seeking clarification as to how the Protocol is implemented in separate and distinct subnational jurisdictions within a given country. The Advisory Committee may wish to consider such cases and whether and how the ABS Clearing-House can provide greater clarity on implementation in such cases, in particular where there are overseas territories, protectorates or other autonomous regions within the same country, and provide advice on how to improve clarity in the Clearing-House, including in the interactive map available on the home page and the country profile pages.

G. Integration with the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention and Bioland

64. Bioland is a project under the clearing-house mechanism aimed at supporting countries in establishing national websites related to biodiversity. The Secretariat will be improving the template for those websites and incorporating information related to the Convention and its Protocols. More details will be shared during the meeting.¹² The Advisory Committee is invited to provide advice on whether and how information from the ABS Clearing-House should be displayed on national Bioland websites.

¹² An overview of the project is provided in the following video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=-m5tAqFxDcA.

Annex I

Number of records published annually on the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House since the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity (12 October 2014)

Table 1
Number of national records published on the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House

Record type	Year										Total
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
ABS procedure	–	–	–	–	1	3	10	6	3	4	27
Checkpoint	2	2	17	16	6	6	16	4	7	6	82
Checkpoint communiqué	–	–	–	–	4	13	25	8	31	92	173
CNA	3	4	8	14	10	10	23	9	33	30	144
IRCC	–	1	49	70	191	798	1 016	1 175	1 139	557	4 996
MSRs	24	4	88	105	24	30	30	38	10	16	369
NMCC	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	1	–	1	5
National websites or databases	1	3	7	12	9	3	9	5	5	5	59
Total	30	14	169	217	245	864	1 131	1 246	1 228	711	5 855

Abbreviations: CNA, competent national authority; IRCC, internationally recognized certificate of compliance; MSRs, legislative, policy or administrative measures; NMCC, national model contractual clauses.

Table 2
Number of reference records published annually

<i>Record type</i>	<i>Year</i>										<i>Total</i>
	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	
CDI	–	–	21	16	25	8	–	21	2	–	93
CPP	–	–	1	1	6	1	3	20	1	3	36
A19A20	–	1	11	14	2	1	1	1	1	1	33
VLR	23	1	42	25	56	17	11	15	48	48	286
Total	23	2	75	56	89	27	15	57	52	52	448

Abbreviations: CDI, capacity-development initiatives; CPP, community protocols and procedures and customary laws; A19A20, model contractual clauses, codes of conduct, guidelines, best practices and/or standards; VLR, virtual library resources.

Annex II

National record type: status of measures on access and benefit-sharing

Fields on the status of legislative, administrative and policy measures on access and benefit-sharing (ABS measures) marked with an asterisk are mandatory, unless otherwise indicated. Failure to provide information in those fields may result in the record not being made available to the ABS Clearing-House.

Countries are limited to one record.

General information	
1. *Is this a new record or a modification to an existing record? ¹³	<input type="checkbox"/> New record or <input type="checkbox"/> Update of an existing record <clearing-house record number>
2. *Country:	<Country name>

Status of adoption of ABS measures	
3. *At which level of jurisdiction does this record refer to the current status of ABS measures?	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Subnational <Subnational jurisdiction> <input type="checkbox"/> Community <Community>
4. *Title:	Status of [jurisdiction (subnational/community)] ABS measures

¹³ To view the record number, go to <http://absch.cbd.int/> and select the applicable record under your country profile. The identification number is listed as “Record identifier” (e.g. “ABSCH-XX-XX-XXXXXX”).

<p>5. *Status of your country's (or jurisdiction indicated) ABS measures:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> ABS measures have been established, as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Completed: all ABS measures have been established (and no new measures are planned to date)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Improving: some ABS measures have been established and a process is ongoing to revise existing measures or develop new ones</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Partially: some ABS measures have been established and new ones are planned (but not started)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ABS measures have not been established. The status is as follows:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> In progress: ABS measures are under development.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The development of ABS measures is planned but has not started.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> There is no current plan to develop ABS measures.</p> <p><i>Please provide more information about the current progress in establishing ABS measures and/or a summary of the main difficulties and challenges encountered: <Text entry></i></p>
<p>*Is access to genetic resources subject to prior informed consent, as provided for in paragraph 1 of Article 6 of the Nagoya Protocol?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Prior informed consent is required, but not in the context of ABS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The requirement of prior informed consent is included in a draft or planned</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The requirement of prior informed consent is not planned</p> <p><i>If yes is selected, please select from the following list the relevant ABS measures regulating access to genetic resources:</i></p> <p><clearing-house record number></p> <p><i>Please further explain your response. <Text entry></i></p>

<p>6. *Does your country (or jurisdiction indicated) have indigenous peoples and local communities?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My country has indigenous peoples</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My country has local communities</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> My country has indigenous peoples and local communities</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><i>If no is selected, please skip to question 9.</i></p> <p><i>Please further explain your response <Text entry></i></p>
<p>7. *Do indigenous peoples and local communities have the established right to grant access to genetic resources according to your domestic law?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (fully implemented)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To some extent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> But in preparation or planned</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not planned</p> <p><i>If yes is selected, please select from the following list the relevant ABS measures concerning access to genetic resources held by indigenous peoples and local communities:</i></p> <p><clearing-house record number></p> <p><i>Please select from the following list other relevant applicable information related to ABS procedures, national websites or databases, community protocols and procedures and customary laws and/or competent national authorities:</i></p> <p><clearing-house record number></p> <p><i>Please further explain your response <Text entry></i></p>

<p>8. *Has your country (or the jurisdiction indicated) taken measures to ensure that traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that is held by indigenous peoples and local communities within your country is granted access to with the prior informed consent or approval and involvement of the indigenous peoples and local communities concerned and that mutually agreed terms have been established?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes (fully implemented)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To some extent</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> But in preparation or planned</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Not planned</p> <p><i>If yes is selected, please select from the following list the relevant ABS measures concerning access to genetic resources held by indigenous peoples and local communities:</i></p> <p><clearing-house record number></p> <p><i>Please select from the following list other relevant applicable information related to ABS procedures, national websites or databases, community protocols and procedures and customary laws and/or competent national authorities:</i></p> <p><clearing-house record number></p> <p><i>Please further explain your response</i> <Text entry></p>
<p>Additional information</p>	
<p>9. Any other relevant information</p>	<p><i>Please use this field to provide any other relevant information that may not have been addressed elsewhere in the record.</i></p> <p><Text entry></p> <p><i>and/or</i> <URL and website name></p> <p><i>and/or</i> <Attachment></p>
<p>10. Notes¹⁴</p>	<p><Text entry></p>

¹⁴ The “Notes” field is for your personal notes or comments and will be hidden when viewing the record, but it is not meant to be used for confidential information.

Record validation	
*Country:	<Country name>
*Name of the ABS Clearing-House publishing authority:	<Text entry>
*Date:	<YYYY-MM-DD>
<i>I hereby confirm that the information given above is correct and agree to its inclusion in the ABS Clearing-House.</i>	
*Signature of the ABS Clearing-House publishing authority:	
Submission addresses <p>The present form should be completed and sent to secretariat@cbd.int</p> <p>Alternatively, it may be sent by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fax, at +1 514 288-6588 • Postal mail, to: <p>Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity 413 rue Saint-Jacques, suite 800 Montréal, Québec, H2Y 1N9 Canada</p>	