

Agenda item 9

Digital sequence information on genetic resources

Scenario note for the contact group on digital sequence information on genetic resources

1. The Conference of the Parties, at its sixteenth meeting, is expected to finalize the operationalization of the multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including a global fund, as established under decision 15/9 and mandated by paragraph 17 of the same decision.
2. A contact group on digital sequence information on genetic resources was established by Working Group I under its agenda item 9. Lactitia Tshitwamulomoni of South Africa and William Lockhart of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have been asked to co-chair this contact group.
3. The mandate of the contact group is to prepare a consensus text on the basis of the draft decision contained in recommendation 2/1 of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources and reproduced in the compilation of draft decisions (CBD/COP/16/2/Rev.1). The Co-Chairs may prepare non-papers and establish friends of the chair groups as appropriate to facilitate the negotiations in the group.
4. The draft decision includes a number of preambular and operative paragraphs, one of which refers to an annex which sets out the modalities for operationalizing the multilateral mechanism, including a global fund. The annex includes a number of enclosures. Many of the paragraphs in the draft decision and annex, including the enclosures, contain bracketed text.
5. The group may also take into account the outcome of the third meeting of the Advisory Committee on Resource Mobilization, as indicated in paragraph 66 of the annotations to the agenda (CBD/COP/16/1/Add.1).
6. The present non-paper sets out the plan of the Co-Chairs regarding the modalities of work of the contact group. The plan is subject to adjustment in the light of progress made with a view to facilitating the most efficient use of time.
7. All the issues identified by the Working Group at its second meeting will be considered during the course of COP16. Given the very limited time available, the Co-Chairs are calling for a pragmatic approach to the work to be done, and plan to move quickly to a text-based review of the draft decision and annex. The contact group will work on the basis that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.
8. At the first session, scheduled for Monday evening, 21 October, the Co-Chairs propose to provide a brief summary of the intersessional work since COP15 and the approach the contact group will take to its work. The Co-Chairs would also provide an opportunity for concise reports on any other relevant intersessional activities. However, as noted above, it is the intention of the Co-Chairs to move to text-based review of the draft decision and its annex as quickly as possible.
9. Most of the remaining time of the first session would be devoted to a review of the parts of the annex concerning the purpose and use of the funding raised by the mechanism (para. 18).
10. For the second session of the contact group, it is proposed that the focus of work be on the provisions concerning the sharing of monetary benefits, including trigger points for contribution to the fund (paragraph 2, 3, 4, 8 and Enclosure A).
11. For the third session, it is proposed to consider non-monetary benefit sharing (paras. 5, 6 and 7).

12. At the fourth session, it is proposed to consider the disbursement of monetary benefits, including the question of the host of the global fund and any allocation methodologies (paras. 19, 20 and 21 and Enclosure B).
 13. It is proposed that the fifth session will examine governance issues.
 14. All remaining issues will be addressed in subsequent sessions of the contact groups.
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