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Agenda item 11
Digital sequence information on genetic resources
Working Group I

Digital sequence information on genetic resources*

Draft decision submitted by the Chair of Working Group I

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions 15/9 of 19 December 2022 and 16/2 of 1 November 2024,

[Reaffirming the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources, and emphasizing that the operationalization of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, must respect applicable national access and benefit-sharing legislation and mutually agreed terms, while preserving the balance established by decision 16/2;]

alt *Recognizing* that the approach to the fair and equitable benefit-sharing from the use of DSI set out in the present decision is without prejudice to national ABS measures and does not affect the rights and obligations of any Party deriving from any existing international agreement;

Emphasizing the importance of preserving the distinctive nature of the Cali Fund as a benefit sharing fund, ensuring transparency and accountability, and maintaining clear governance structures, institutional mandates, responsibilities and decision-making authority consistent with decision 16/2;

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and to the European Union for their generous financial support for the activities linked with the operationalization of the Multilateral Mechanism for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, including the Cali Fund, and to the Governments of Germany and South Africa for hosting the second and third meetings of the Steering Committee, respectively;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Steering Committee of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund;[1]

3. *Decides to establish*, subject to the availability of resources, an ad hoc open-ended working group on benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources to further develop the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, to consider, inter alia, the issues pursuant to this decision as noted in the relevant paragraphs of this document, and to make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its eighteenth meeting;

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.
[1] CBD/COP/17/6/Add.1.

I
Operations of the Cali Fund

Thresholds and contribution rates

4. *Takes note* of the study on contribution rates, including implications for revenue generation and economic competitiveness, and on national and international standards for the identification of small, medium and large entities;[2]

5. *Recognizes* that thresholds for identifying small, medium and large entities vary among jurisdictions and *reaffirms* that large entities will contribute to the global fund in accordance with decision 16/2; also *considers* that entities classified as small or medium enterprises in national jurisdictions, or those below the thresholds set out in paragraph 3 of the annex to decision 16/2, are not expected to contribute to the Cali Fund but are encouraged to do so;

6. *Affirms* that the thresholds should be applied at the level of the highest legal entity in the ownership chain, where that entity is not itself controlled by another;

7. *Reaffirms* that the contribution rates of 1 per cent of the profits or 0.1 per cent of the revenue of the contributing entities using digital sequence information under the Multilateral Mechanism, are indicative;

8. *Decides* that the thresholds and arrangements referred to in paragraph 6 and the indicatives rates referred to in paragraph 7 are reviewed as part of the first review of the Multilateral Mechanism including the Cali Fund at the eighteen meeting of the Conference of the Parties in light of the outcomes of the work under paragraphs 11 and 12 below taking into account the need to ensure adequate and predictable contributions to the Cali Fund;

9. *Calls upon* users of digital sequence information on genetic resources in sectors that directly or indirectly benefit from its use in their commercial activities to contribute a proportion of their profits or revenue to the Cali Fund, in accordance with decision 16/2 and paragraph 6 above, without prejudice to applicable national access and benefit sharing legislation and obligations;

Potential additional modalities

10. *Recognizes* the potential asymmetries among users, including those making limited or initial use of digital sequence information on genetic resources;

11 *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations and stakeholders, in particular the private sector, to submit views and information on the potential value of additional modalities, including a proportionate contribution pathways such as a products- and services-based modality for but not limited to entities making limited or initial use of digital sequence information on genetic resources in the context of the potential for entities to calculate their contributions to the Cali Fund, based on their use of digital sequence information on genetic resources within the scope of the Multilateral Mechanism, that could complement or refine the approach established in decision 16/2;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to commission a study on potential additional modalities to explore potential proportionate contribution pathways, including for entities making limited or initial use of digital sequence information on genetic resources to enable entities to calculate their contributions to the Fund on the basis of the products or services in their portfolios developed using digital sequence information on genetic resources within the scope of the Multilateral Mechanism, and to analyse and evaluate the feasibility, practicality, efficiency and legal and technical challenges of those pathways, including equity implications, to subject the study to peer review, and to make it available to the ad hoc open-ended

[2] CBD/COP/17/INF/18

working group for its consideration as a complement or refinement of the approach established in decision 16/2;

13. *Decides* to adopt of appropriate, if any, additional modalities, including as described in paragraph 12 above, at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

Definitions

14 *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations and stakeholders, in particular the private sector and the scientific community, to submit their views and information on the need, scope and/or definition of the terms 'entity', "direct and indirect use of digital sequence information on genetic resources" and any possible options in the context of the operationalization of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund;

15 *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Compile and synthesize the submissions pursuant to paragraph 13;

(b) Make the synthesis available to the ad hoc open-ended working group for its consideration;

Certificates

16. *Recognizes* that Cali Fund certificates, as applied solely to the digital sequence information within the scope of the Multilateral Mechanism, has links with some of its other modalities, may provide legal certainty and predictability to entities and will be one of the important means to incentivise, and encourage users to contribute to the global fund in line with the modalities of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, while recalling that every monetary contribution to the Cali Fund will be acknowledged by a receipt as evidence of the financial transaction;

17. *Clarifies* that [only] monetary contributions made by users at or above the rates referred to in paragraph 7 above will entitle users to receive a Cali Fund certificate for the year to which the contribution relates, without prejudice to possible future modalities;

18. *Takes note* of the work of the Steering Committee on certificates, in particular in relation to paragraphs 15 and 26 of the annex to decision 16/2, and *invites* the Committee to further work on the topic, as a priority, focusing on the language, legal effect and scope, issuance process and verification of the certificates, taking into account the criteria in paragraphs 9 and 10 of decision 15/9, with a view to promote legal certainty to both Parties and contributing users of the digital sequence information on genetic resources;

19. *Requests* Parties, while recalling paragraph 13 of the annex to decision 16/2, 16/2, to submit information, to be presented to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting by the Steering Committee, on the characteristics and elements that a Cali Fund certificate would need to operationalize paragraph 15 of the annex to decision 16/2, and the processes, if any, that would need to be undertaken at the national level to recognize or give legal effect to such certificates, including in their national legislation;

20. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile the information submitted pursuant to paragraph 19 above and provide it to the Steering Committee for its information and so that it may take it into account in their work on the certificates and report on it to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

21. *Supports* the Steering Committee to issue annual interim certificates, resulting from the work noted in paragraph 18 above for applicable contributions to the Cali Fund, including current ones, as an exceptional measure to incentivize contributions to the Cali Fund, and to build experience and lessons learned to be considered as part of its review of the Mechanism by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

22. *Notes* that, in line with the principle of transparency and accountability of the Multilateral Mechanism, the list of Cali Fund certificates and their recipients will be made public by the Secretariat of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund;

Allocation methodology

23. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the work of the of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Allocation Methodology on the disbursement of funds from the Cali Fund;[3]

24. *Takes note* of the design principles for the allocation formula and its future revisions, guided by decision 16/2, namely equity, fairness and impact; efficiency; transparency and confidence; and *recognizes* that the methodology should reflect the contributions to conservation and sustainable use of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth within those communities;

25. [Authorizes the Steering Committee, on an exceptional basis, to allocate funding from the Cali Fund on an exceptional basis before the allocation methodology is adopted at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties provided that capitalization reaches [200][150] million United States Dollars, in accordance with the following provisions, which shall cease to apply upon the conclusion of that meeting, without prejudice to the allocation methodology to be adopted therein:

(a) Among developing country Parties, in accordance with paragraphs 18 and 20 of the annex to decision 16/2:

(i) [25%][20%] allocated equally among all countries;

(ii) [25%][10%][20%] allocated according to GNI per capita adjusted by the factors used in the United Nations scale of assessments formula; countries with lower adjusted GNI per capita will receive higher allocations;

(iii) [50%][70%][60%] allocated according to the Benefits Index for Biodiversity as employed by the Global Environment Facility (updated data from the ninth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, at the global level);

(b) Among indigenous peoples and local communities, [90%] of their allocation is reserved for indigenous peoples and local communities in developing countries, allocated among countries according to paragraph 25 (a) above, and [10%] of their allocation is reserved for indigenous peoples and local communities in developed countries. [Within these allocations, funds may be disbursed according to the self-identified priorities of indigenous peoples and local communities in line with and subject to the arrangements set out in the annex to decision 16/2;]

26. [*Decides* that allocation made under the agreed methodologies shall be subject to adjustment, as appropriate, following the adoption of the final allocation methodology by eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to ensure consistency with final methodology;]

27. *Emphasizes* that the allocation methodology will evolve over time as additional and new information becomes available, and *recognizes* that the methodology requires further technical development and refinement in accordance with the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Allocation Methodology;

28. *Requests* the Steering Committee to apply the allocation methodology as outlined in paragraph 25, without prejudging its refinement at the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

29. Invites Parties to submit views on the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group as well as the allocation methodology as outlined in paragraph 25;

[3] CBD/COP/17/6/Add.2.

30. *Decides* to establish, subject to the availability of resources, an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Allocation Methodology with the terms of reference provided in annex I, taking into account the views referred to in paragraph 29, and allowing for exchange of views between the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Allocation Methodology and the Steering Committee, specifically to:

(a) Identify and evaluate new or updated data relevant to the allocation methodology, in particular for the calculation of allocations to targeted governments, including data and indicators generated under the Convention and the Monitoring Framework of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(b) Develop a methodology specifically for the purpose of calculating allocations to indigenous peoples and local communities, with their full and effective participation in the process, including consideration of women and young people within those communities, including the assessment of the specific distributional effects of the interim and alternative approaches for them;

(c) Develop criterion (b) of the allocation methodology on the geographical origin of the genetic resources from which digital sequence information on genetic resources in the database was derived, including potential recognized sources of data available at the global level, such as an indicator, and as applicable, the potential need to develop a new indicator, and in all cases reporting on options for custodianship of the indicator, current or future availability, an assessment of biases and gaps, as well as a global evaluation of the need and feasibility to provide data for such a criterion;

(d) To provide information on its work pursuant to subparagraphs 30 (a), (b) and (c) for consideration by the ad hoc open-ended working group and with a view to adopt the revised allocation methodology at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

31. *Decides* that to ensure **the** ability to disburse funds to indigenous peoples and local communities, the proposal from the Steering Committee consistent with paragraph 21 of the annex to decision 16/2, including, subject to national circumstances and national legislation, through government authorities or by direct payments through institutions identified by indigenous peoples and local communities direct allocation through institutions identified by indigenous peoples and local communities themselves, national-level delivery through designated entities, and hybrid or context-specific arrangements, taking into account national circumstances and national legislation;

II
Non-monetary benefit sharing and data availability and accessibility

32. *Recognises* that further work is needed to operationalise the elements of the Multilateral Mechanism that address non-monetary benefit sharing and capacity building and development, *acknowledges* the important role they play in the effective implementation of the Mechanism and *notes* the need for adequate funding to support such activities, in line decision 16/2;

33. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Invite Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations and stakeholders, in particular the scientific community, to share views, information, and on-going work on digital sequence information on genetic resources non-monetary benefit-sharing including, inter alia, best practices, practical options for enhancing the delivery, accessibility and effectiveness of non-monetary benefits, particularly for developing country Parties, including least developed countries and small island developing States, projects and methods for quantifying and demonstrating non-monetary benefit-sharing;

(b) Commission a study, under the guidance of the Steering Committee, on current non-monetary benefit-sharing by all users of digital sequence information on genetic resources in order to identify, inter alia:

(i) capacity gaps in accessing, using and generating such digital sequence information, including needs for the development of sustained scientific and technological capacities, pathways for the self-assessment of capacity needs;

(ii) methods to monitor and report non-monetary benefits;

(iii) examples of the successful delivery of targeted non-monetary benefits, including through the network of regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres;

(iv) overview of whether and how the same issues are being considered under other international access and benefit sharing agreements with due consideration of capacity-building, technology transfer, scientific cooperation and the development of national capacities to generate, manage, access and utilize digital sequence information on genetic resources;

(v) ways in which non-monetary benefit contributions from the Multilateral Mechanism can be integrated into reporting as part of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;

(vi) requirements and further work needed on the clearing house for the Multilateral Mechanism provided for in paragraph 8 of the annex to decision 16/2, including transparency and accountability in reporting non-monetary benefit sharing, and;

(vii) recommendations for the Steering Committee for further operationalization, recognizing that non-monetary benefit-sharing complements, and does not substitute for, monetary benefit-sharing through the Cali Fund under decision 16/2;

(c) Provide the Steering Committee with the outcome of the work described in subparagraph 33 (a) and (b) above for its consideration with the aim to share its views and give recommendations, and submit the outcomes of this work to the ad hoc open-ended working group for its consideration;

Data accessibility and accountability

34. *Invites*, with the aim of making digital sequence information on genetic resources publicly available and accessible in a transparent and accountable manner, consistent with the sovereign rights of all Parties over the genetic resources and the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and consistent with the principles of open access to data:

(a) Indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth among them, to contribute, in consultation and collaboration, with Parties, and digital sequence information on genetic resources database managers, the scientific community, users of digital sequence information on genetic resources, relevant organizations and initiatives, as appropriate, to the development of educational material for use by database operators, scientific and research institutions, the Secretariat and other stakeholders, as relevant, on the management and governance of data linked with indigenous peoples and local communities, including the women and youth within those communities, and their traditional knowledge, including consideration of and alignment with the principles of findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability (FAIR) and collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility and ethics (CARE), and collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility and ethics, and considering the recommendations set out in section III of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization *Recommendation on Open Science,* in order to, inter alia, providing guidance for scientific publications on research using digital sequence information on genetic resources;

(b) Organizations hosting databases that make digital sequence information on genetic resources publicly available to share information with the Executive Secretary by the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties concerning their implementation of paragraph

10 of the annex to decision 16/2 while maintaining open access and taking into account existing database practices;

35. *Invites* Parties and relevant organizations and stakeholders in a position to do so to provide capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer and financial support for the work outlined in subparagraphs 34 (a) and (b) above;]

36. *Invites* the various actors referred to in paragraph 34 above to inform the Secretariat of relevant work undertaken and its results;

37. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To collect the information mentioned in paragraph 36 above and disseminate it through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House;

(b) To issue a call for collaboration with other platforms and clearing houses outside the Convention and its Protocols on the dissemination of that information;

38. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to ensure that the findings and recommendations arising from the study on tools and models, such as databases, for making digital sequence information on genetic resources publicly available and accessible in a transparent and accountable manner[4] are subject to peer review, allowing Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, database operators and relevant experts to provide comments, and to submit the finalized study and recommendation for review by the Working Group;

III
Steering Committee and Governance of the Multilateral Mechanism

39. *Welcomes* the rule on the membership of the Steering Committee, including the transitional arrangements for the staggered renewal of its current membership;[5]

40. *Requests* the Steering Committee to add a rule to their Rules of Procedure on members selection stating that future members of the Steering Committee should be nominated by the respective regional groups and constituencies, possessing appropriate qualifications related to access and benefit sharing or finance, as determined by their nominating regional groups and constituencies, so as to ensure the effective exercise of the functions of the Committee;

41. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to invite each region to nominate one representative and to communicate the nomination through its respective Bureau member;

Structured approach

42. *Takes note* of the work of the Steering Committee on a structured approach to implementation activities and, *invites* it, without prejudging ongoing discussions within the Steering Committee on the operationalization of the Multilateral Mechanism or the outcomes of the implementation on interim measures in this decision, and in accordance with decision 16/2, to continue its work, generate evidence for the first review of the Multilateral Mechanism, including results, conclusions and lessons learned from the structured approach, as applicable, and include the outcomes of this work in the report and advice of the Steering Committee to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

43. Invites the Steering Committee to engage, as appropriate, with other actors that are undertaking activities relevant to the structured approach to ensure complementary, and non-duplicative approaches;

Operational aspects of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund

[4] CBD/SBI/7/INF/15.
[5] CBD/COP/17/2 item 11 annex I

44. *Recalls* that the Multilateral Mechanism for the Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, including the Cali Fund, operates under the authority and guidance of and is accountable to the Conference of Parties, in accordance with decision 16/2;

45. *Also recalls* that the Cali Fund is currently administered by the United Nations through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, as foreseen in decisions of the Conference of Parties at its sixteenth meeting;

46. *Acknowledges* that the 'Standard Memorandum of Understanding to establish the partnership between United Nations Organizations' and to open a Fund administered by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund of the United Nations contains language which sets the basis of this partnership as agreed by the Members to the United Nations and approved by the UN Sustainable Development Group, and that in consequence, some adjustments may be proposed to the text to ensure its consistency with decision 16/2 and the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties over the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund;

47. *Also acknowledges* that the signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding of the Cali Fund are the UNDP, the UNEP, and the SCBD, as an agreement with the MPTFO, and that the legal and fiduciary responsibility that it engages is required to align with their established legal framework;

48. *Further acknowledges* that the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, is to be reviewed by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting, and that this review is inclusive of governance of the Mechanism, including the Memorandum of Understanding, its annexes and the Steering Committee's terms of reference and modus operandi;

49. *Considers* that the Memorandum of Understanding of the Multilateral Mechanism and its annexes, including the Cali Fund should align with decision 16/2 and decision 15/9 and that the Memorandum of Understanding and its Annexes should reflect that the Cali Fund is a Fund to facilitate monetary benefit-sharing from the use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources;

50. *Therefore calls upon* the signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding of the Cali Fund to adjust terminology in the Memorandum of Understanding from donor/donations to contributor/contributions, consistent with the benefit-sharing arrangements established under decision 16/2;

51. *Notes* that the Steering Committee was convened for the first time only then after the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding by the United Nations Partners and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office;

[52. *Decides* to establish on an exceptional and time-bound basis, subject to the availability of resources, a legal experts group with one member, with experience on similar agreements and mechanisms, nominated by each UN region, and one from indigenous peoples and local communities, according to the established procedures, with a mandate to examine, with the support of the legal experts of United Nations Participating Organizations and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, [as well as an observer from the business sector], the language of the Memorandum of Understanding including its annexes and the Steering Committee's terms of reference and operations manual, assess their optimal alignment with decision 16/2, and ,and to prepare recommendations for further alignment including any clarifications, amendments or corrective measures, as applicable and as necessary, to preserve the benefit-sharing nature of the Cali Fund, ensure transparency and accountability, clarify institutional mandates and responsibilities,]

53. *Also decides* that this group shall meet online, subject to the availability of resources, with additional online meetings as needed;

54. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to:

(a) Facilitate the formation of this group through a call for nomination;

(b) Support this group in its work according to the mandate in paragraph 52;

(c) Report the outcomes of this work to the Steering Committee of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, for its technical review and comments, without prejudice to the recommendations of the legal experts group;

(d) Communicates the report of the group and the outcomes of the review of the Steering Committee to the ad hoc open-ended working group for their consideration [and] with a view to make a recommendation to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting for its consideration and approval, as appropriate;

55. *Considers* that in order for the good functioning and capitalization of the Multilateral Mechanism including the Cali Fund, the Memorandum of Understanding as is currently drafted will continue to apply and the contributors will be duly informed about the ongoing process on MOU pursuant to this decision and that provisions of the MOU may be altered modifying any rights that may be arising pursuant to the MOU;

56. *Also decides* that the Steering Committee may make modifications to operational documents other than the Memorandum of Understanding in the event that it is needed to ensure their responsibilities in the functioning of the Multilateral Mechanism, in particular not to delay the capitalization of the Fund, such as a structural approach, provided that such modifications do not alter the governance arrangements established under decision 16/2, without prejudice to the outcome of the work of the Legal Expert Group;

IV
Review methodology

57. *Decides* to implement the review methodology[6] for the purpose of the first review of effectiveness of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, and with a view for this methodology to be revised before the second review of effectiveness;

58. *Requests* that the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Steering Committee, in line with the review methodology and subject to the availability of resources to:

(a) Develop and disseminate a survey available in all official languages of the United Nations to collect relevant data and information from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant stakeholders and organizations, including the scientific community, database managers and the private sector, in order to inform the first review of the effectiveness of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, and the development of surveys for future reviews;

(b) Commission a review report containing:

(i) an analysis of data and information submitted pursuant to subparagraph 58 (a) above that is in line with the pillars and governance assessment of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, information from the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Framework and other readily available sources, as relevant; and

(ii) recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund;

[6] CBD/COP/17/2 item 11 annex III

(c) Submit the review report to the Steering Committee to give it the opportunity to share its views and give any recommendations that it may have thereon, and submit the report and the recommendations of the ad hoc open-ended working group;

59. *Invites* the actors concerned to respond to the survey mentioned in subparagraph 58 (a) above;

60. *Requests* that the working group review the report as well as any comments or recommendations of the Steering Committee on such report;

V
Support for the operationalization of the Mechanism

61. *Calls upon* Parties with users in their jurisdiction to take measures to ensure that users contribute to the global fund in line with the modalities of the Multilateral Mechanism, as appropriate within their national context in accordance with decision 16/2;

62. *Calls upon* Parties, and invites other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders, including the private sector, to organize participatory activities and partnerships, as appropriate, in order to encourage private sector engagement with and contributions to the Cali Fund and non-monetary benefit-sharing consistent with decision 16/2;

63. *Requests* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations, to support the work of the Steering Committee of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity[7] acting as the interim Secretariat of the Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, through financial support and formal and informal activities, [including through capacity-building, technical assistance, awareness-raising and information-sharing,] such as workshops on the operationalization of the Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, and related items to continue supporting the effective participation in the work of the Committee of members from developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States among them;

64. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to enhance cooperation with the Secretariats of other relevant international organizations and bodies, such as the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the World Health Organization, the World International Property Organization, and the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction to promote mutual supportiveness and synergies in order to address common challenges;

Annex I

Terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Allocation Methodology

1 The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Allocation Methodology is to provide technical advice and guidance on the allocation methodology(ies) for disbursing funding, as decided in the annex to decision 16/2 from the global fund, to:

(a) governments in developing country Parties (paragraph 18 of the annex to decision 16/2), on the basis of the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Allocation Methodology[8] and taking into consideration the recommendations for future work;

(b) indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth within those communities (paragraph 21 of the annex to decision 16/2), on the basis of the report

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.
[8] CBD/DSI/AHTEG/2026/2/3

mentioned above as well as other relevant sources, including discussions with the Steering Committee;

2. The Group is to submit its report to the ad hoc open-ended working group, with the view to make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting;

3. The Technical Expert Group will comprise technical experts, as follows: 15 nominated by Parties, 7 nominated by representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities from the seven sociocultural regions, and 4 nominated by relevant organizations. The Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau, will select experts on the basis of nominations received, taking gender and the relevant technical expertise of the candidates into account and applying the procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest set out in the annex to decision 14/33, as amended in decision 16/26.

4 The Technical Expert Group may draw on existing expertise and liaise with relevant organizations, as appropriate, in the execution of its mandate.

5 The Technical Expert Group may consider, inter alia, the following:

(a) With regard to criterion (a), develop an indicator specifically addressing species richness and biodiversity, taking into account biological diversity; territorial extent and the extent of natural ecosystems; ecosystem diversity, including ecological distinctiveness; endemism; ecological integrity and connectivity; and biodiversity conserved and sustainably used by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including in their lands and territories;

(b) With regard to criterion (b), reformulate the indicator to clearly reflect the country of origin of the genetic resources from which the digital sequence information on genetic resources was derived, rather than the country in which the digital sequence information on genetic resources was generated or uploaded to a database;

(c) With regard to criterion (c), develop an indicator based on information available in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and national capacity-development plans, reflecting capacity needs for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, taking into account the circumstances of developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, Parties with economies in transition, megadiverse developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, Parties with economies in transition, megadiverse developing countries, and the needs of indigenous peoples and local communities, while avoiding indicators that merely reflect the economic development or payment capacity of Parties.

6. Subject to the availability of financial resources, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will meet, as needed, to ensure the timely provision of advice and, wherever possible, back-to-back with other relevant meetings. Where possible, the Secretariat will use available means of electronic communication to reduce the need for in-person meetings._