



## **Convention on Biological Diversity**

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### **INFORMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE**

First meeting

Montreal, Canada, 28-30 October 2015

Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*

#### **Organizational matters**

### **ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

#### **Introduction**

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

2. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP) at its first meeting considered progress made and experience gained during the pilot phase of the ABS Clearing-House and adopted decision NP-1/2. In paragraph 7 of the decision, the COP-MOP requested the Executive Secretary to implement the ABS Clearing-House, in line with available resources, and in accordance with the modalities of operation (decision NP-1/2, annex) and feedback received, in particular that of Parties.

3. The COP-MOP established an informal advisory committee (IAC) to assist the Executive Secretary with the implementation of the ABS Clearing-House and to provide technical guidance with respect to the resolution of technical and practical issues arising from the ongoing development of the ABS Clearing-House. The IAC would be composed of 15 experts, primarily from Parties, selected on the basis of nominations from Parties (decision NP-1/2, para. 2).

4. The COP-MOP also decided that the IAC would hold at least one meeting in the coming intersessional period, as well as informal online discussions, as needed, and address technical issues related to feedback received, including issues related to the internationally recognized certificate of compliance and the checkpoint communiqué, and report on the outcomes of its work to the second meeting of COP-MOP (decision NP-1/2, para. 3).

5. Pursuant to the above decision, by notification 2014-127 of 4 November 2014 and a reminder notification on 3 December 2014, Parties to the Nagoya Protocol were invited to nominate one expert for the IAC. Given the small number of nominations received by the original deadline of 15 December 2014,

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the deadline for nominations was extended to 30 January 2015 through notification 2014-140 of 17 December 2014. On the basis of the nominations received from Parties to the Protocol, participants were selected with due account being taken of regional balance, relevant experience and engagement in the ABS Clearing-House in accordance with decision NP-1/2, paragraph 2, and the composition of the IAC was announced by notification 2015-03-23.

6. Against this background, the first meeting of the IAC will be held in Montreal from 28 to 30 October 2015. A joint session will be conducted on 30 October with the Informal Advisory Committee to the CBD clearing-house mechanism to provide advice on issues of common interest.

7. The documents for the meeting are listed in annex I. They are available on the Secretariat's website at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=ABSCH-IAC-01>.

8. The meeting will be held at the office of the Secretariat on the sixth floor. Registration of participants will take place upon arrival at the meeting venue, starting at 9.00 a.m. on the opening day. The joint session with the Informal Advisory Committee to the CBD clearing-house mechanism, which is scheduled for Friday, 30 October 2015, will be held in the main conference room of the Secretariat of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), which is located on the second floor (Suite 200) of the building where the CBD Secretariat is located.

9. An information note containing detailed information regarding logistical arrangements for the meeting, including registration, travel, visa requirements, and accommodation, is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=ABSCH-IAC-01>.

#### **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

10. The meeting will be opened by the Executive Secretary or his representative at 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 28 October 2015.

#### **ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

11. Participants will be invited to elect the chair for the meeting on the basis of proposals from the floor.

12. The IAC will also be invited to adopt the agenda for the meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/ABS/CH-IAC/2015/1/1) and to consider the proposed organization of work as contained in annex II below.

13. The proposed organization of work provides for conducting the meeting in plenary. As mentioned in paragraph 6 above, the IAC will hold a joint session with the Informal Advisory Committee to the CBD clearing-house mechanism on Friday, 30 October 2015, to consider issues of common interest included under agenda item 3, as further described in paragraph 19 below.

14. The language of the meeting will be English.

#### **ITEM 3. REPORT ON PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE**

15. Under this item, the Secretariat will report on progress made in the implementation and administration of the ABS Clearing-House in accordance with the functions of the Secretariat contained in the modalities of operation of the ABS Clearing-House.

16. The IAC will be invited to provide the Executive Secretary with technical guidance regarding the resolution of technical and practical issues arising from the ongoing development of the ABS Clearing-House in relation to progress made on the following issues:

- (a) Providing timely technical assistance and receiving feedback;
- (b) Developing the central portal and databases of the ABS Clearing-House;
- (c) Promoting the use of the ABS Clearing-House for supporting capacity-building for the implementation of the Protocol;
- (d) Common formats for submitting information to the ABS Clearing-House and reviewing existing and further developing common formats;
- (e) Making the ABS Clearing-House operational in the six official languages of the United Nations;
- (f) Facilitating the exchange of information with other databases or systems (for example, interoperability).

17. As a basis for its discussions, the IAC may wish to consider UNEP/CBD/ABS/CH-IAC/2015/1/2, section II, and the common formats included in UNEP/CBD/ABS/CH-IAC/2015/1/INF/1 on: (a) model contractual clauses, codes of conduct, guidelines, and best practices and/or standards; (b) community protocols, and customary laws and procedures; (c) capacity-building and development initiatives (activity/project/programme); and (d) the Virtual Library, including capacity-building and development tools and resources.

18. As progress is being made in both the CBD clearing-house mechanism and the ABS Clearing-House, it is essential to have an integrated approach to their implementation as well as a joint dialogue in order to ensure coherence and complementarity in the guidance provided on issues that are of common interest. Accordingly, issues that are of common interest for both platforms will be discussed jointly by the two informal advisory committees during the session planned for 30 October 2015.

19. The joint session will start with presentations on the CBD clearing-house mechanism and the ABS Clearing-House with a view to briefing each of the informal advisory committees on their respective ongoing work. During the joint session, the informal advisory committees will be invited to consider:

- (a) Progress made on the online reporting tool for submitting information on progress towards national targets and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
- (b) Common formats for the Virtual Library, including capacity-building and development tools and resources and capacity-building and development initiatives (activity/project/programme) (UNEP/CBD/ABS/CH-IAC/2015/1/INF/1);
- (c) The report on progress made in enhancing the integration of the ABS Clearing-House as part of the CBD clearing-house mechanism (UNEP/CBD/ABS/CH-IAC/2015/1/2, section II, subsection A) and the preliminary draft website strategy (UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2015/1/INF/2).

20. The draft website strategy has been developed to respond to the request made by Parties, at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to ensure that all information common or relevant to the CBD clearing-house mechanism, the ABS Clearing-House and the Biosafety Clearing-House, as well as other platforms developed under the Convention, such as the NBSAP Forum, the website for ecologically and biologically significant marine areas and any future similar developments, can be accessed centrally to avoid duplication of efforts (decision XII/2 B, subsect. 3, para. 19).

**ITEM 4. COLLABORATION WITH RELEVANT INSTRUMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE EXCHANGE OF RELEVANT DATA**

21. In paragraph 13 of its decision NP-1/2, the COP-MOP requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a report on progress including, inter alia, progress on collaboration with relevant instruments and organizations for the exchange of relevant data. Under this item, the IAC will be invited to consider UNEP/CBD/ABS/CH-IAC/2015/1/2, section III, regarding progress made in the collaboration with relevant instruments and organizations for the exchange of relevant data and to provide technical guidance with respect to the resolution of technical and practical issues as well as advice on priorities for future collaboration and implementation of the ABS Clearing-House.

**ITEM 5. PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE**

22. Under this item, the IAC will be invited to consider UNEP/CBD/ABS/CH-IAC/2015/1/2, section IV, and to provide the Executive Secretary with technical advice in relation to the priorities identified for future implementation and administration of the ABS Clearing-House.

23. When providing technical advice, the IAC may wish to take into consideration the resource implications as well as the capacity-building needs of developing country Parties, Parties with economies in transition and indigenous peoples and local communities for active participation in the ABS Clearing-House.

**ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS**

24. Under this agenda item, the IAC will be invited to raise any other relevant issues that were not addressed during the previous discussions.

**ITEM 7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

25. The IAC will be invited to consider and adopt its report.

**ITEM 8. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

26. It is expected that the meeting will close at 5 p.m. on Friday, 30 October 2015.

*Annex I***LIST OF DOCUMENTS****A. Working documents**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/ABS/CH-IAC/2015/1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/ABS/CH-IAC/2015/1/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/ABS/CH-IAC/2015/1/2	Report on progress and priorities for future implementation and administration of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House

**B. Information documents**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/ABS/CH-IAC/2015/1/INF/1	Common formats for the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House
UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2015/1/INF/2	Preliminary draft website strategy
UNEP/CBD/ABS/CB-IAC/2015/1/3	Summary of outcomes of the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

*Annex II***PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
<i>Wednesday, 28 October 2015</i>	<i>Informal Advisory Committee to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House</i>
9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.	Item 1. Opening of the meeting.  Item 2. Organizational matters.  Item 3. Report on progress in the implementation and administration of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House.
1 to 2 p.m.	<i>Break</i>
2 to 5.30 p.m.	Item 3. ( <i>Continued</i> )
<i>Thursday, 29 October 2015</i>	
9.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.	Item 3. ( <i>Continued</i> )  Item 4. Collaboration with relevant instruments and organizations for the exchange of relevant data.
1 to 2 p.m.	<i>Break</i>
2 to 5.30 p.m.	Item 5. Priorities for future implementation and administration of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House.
<i>Friday, 30 October 2015</i>	<i>Joint session of the informal advisory committees to the CBD clearing-house mechanism and the ABS Clearing-House</i>
10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.	Item 3. ( <i>Continued</i> ) - Consideration of issues of common interest
1 to 2 p.m.	<i>Break</i>
2 to 5 p.m.	Item 3. ( <i>Continued</i> ) - Consideration of issues of common interest  <i>Informal Advisory Committee to the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing House (continued)</i>  Item 6. Other matters.  Item 7. Adoption of the report.  Item 8. Closure of the meeting.

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