



Convention on Biological Diversity

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OPEN-ENDED AD HOC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND THE FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS ARISING FROM THEIR UTILIZATION

First meeting

Montreal, 5-10 June 2011

Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

TENTATIVE TIMELINE AND RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILOT PHASE AND THE ADOPTION OF THE MODALITIES OF OPERATION OF THE ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING CLEARING-HOUSE

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Decision X/1 of the Conference of the Parties mandated the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (Intergovernmental Committee) to consider at its first meeting “the modalities of operation of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, including reports on its activities”. (annex II, section A, para. 1)
2. With a view to providing input to the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee and thanks to the financial support of the European Commission, an expert meeting was held from 11 to 14 April 2011, in Montreal, on the modalities of operation of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House (ABS Clearing-House).
3. The meeting considered issues for the establishment of the ABS Clearing-House. These included:
 - (a) The role of the ABS Clearing-House in implementing the Nagoya Protocol;
 - (b) Opportunities for collaboration with existing systems;
 - (c) Consideration for the establishment of the ABS Clearing-House; and
 - (d) Priorities for the pilot phase of the ABS Clearing-House.
4. The Report of the Expert Meeting on the Modalities of Operation of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House is available at: www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=ICNP-01 (UNEP/CBD/ICNP/1/2).

* UNEP/CBD/ICNP/1/1.

5. In paragraph 79 of the Report of the Expert Meeting on the Modalities of Operation of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House (UNEP/CBD/ABS/EM-CH/1/4), participants in the Expert Meeting considered that “the pilot phase of the ABS Clearing-House should be initiated as soon as possible after the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee, and continue until the modalities of operation are adopted by the COP-MOP”. It also recommended that the Secretariat prepare an “estimate of the funding and resource requirements needed to initiate the pilot phase of the ABS Clearing-House and a tentative timeline for its implementation for consideration by the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee”.

II. SUGGESTED TIMELINE AND ACTIVITIES

6. Paragraph 4 of Article 14 of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing establishes that “the modalities of the operation of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, including reports on its activities, shall be considered and decided upon by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to this Protocol at its first meeting, and kept under review thereafter”.

7. As mentioned above, the Expert Meeting suggested that the pilot phase of the ABS Clearing-House should be initiated as soon as possible after the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee and continue until the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, which is expected to be held concurrently with the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in October 2012.

8. Against this background and taking into account the outcomes of the Expert Meeting, the Intergovernmental Committee may wish to consider the following suggested timeline and activities for the implementation of the pilot phase and the adoption of the modalities of operation of the ABS Clearing-House.

Table: Suggested activities and timeline for the implementation of the pilot phase and adoption of the modalities of operation of the ABS Clearing-House

First meeting of the ICNP- June 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve modalities of operation of the pilot phase of the ABS Clearing-House. • Initiate the pilot phase of the ABS Clearing-House.
Intersessional period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat to prepare user requirements for the pilot phase of the ABS Clearing-House, including use cases and draft common formats for information to be made available on a priority basis. • Secretariat to start work on central portal. • Secretariat to explore collaboration with partners. • Secretariat to develop draft modalities of operation of the ABS Clearing-House.
Second meeting of the ICNP-April 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree on draft modalities of operation of the ABS Clearing-House for transmission to COP-MOP-1. • Launch and demonstration of the online version of the pilot ABS Clearing-House.
Intersessional period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties to nominate the relevant authority for submission of information to the ABS Clearing-House. • Parties to submit available information in common formats to the ABS Clearing-House, including information on the national focal point; competent national authority or authorities; legislative, administrative or policy measures and information on capacity-building.

First meeting of the
COP-MOP-October
2012

- Adopt the modalities of operation of the ABS Clearing-House

III. FUNDING AND RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

9. Based on the experience of the pilot phases of the Convention on Biological Diversity Clearing-House Mechanism and of the Biosafety Clearing-House, initiating the pilot phase of the ABS Clearing-House will require additional financial and human resources. The estimate below assumes that the existing infrastructure at the Secretariat may be used during the pilot phase. With a view to implementing the suggested timeline and activities described above, new dedicated human resources would be required as well as infrastructure equipment. These would include an information management officer (ABS Clearing-House Officer), a programmer and/or database designer, and administrative and documentation support. Additional financial resources would also be needed for outsourcing information and technology developments, as well as for hardware and software.

Expenditures		Annual Cost (USD)
I	Human resources	
	<i>ABS Clearing-House Officer</i>	(Equivalent of P4) 224,807
	<i>Programmer/database designer</i>	(Equivalent of P3) 197,905
	<i>Administrative and documentation support</i>	(Equivalent of G7) 52,042
	<i>Consultancies for outsourcing IT developments</i>	20,000
II	Infrastructure equipment	
	<i>Hardware and software</i>	20,000
	Subtotal	514,754
IV.	Programme support costs (13%)	66,918
	Total cost	581,672
	Balance of contributions received	0
	Additional funds required	581,672
