



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/CHM/IAC/2010/1/INF/1
8 September 2010

ENGLISH ONLY

MEETING OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE TO THE CLEARING-HOUSE
MECHANISM OF THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Nagoya, Japan, 17 October 2010

TRANSLATIONS OF CLEARING-HOUSE MECHANISM

1. During meetings of the informal advisory committee, the issue of translation of the term “clearing-house mechanism” was raised repeatedly. This term is an English idiom and literal translation is not always possible. As an example, the official French translation is “centre d’échange” (exchange centre), while the official Spanish one is “mecanismo de facilitación” (facilitation mechanism). Members of the informal advisory committee have considered this problematic because some of these translations are somewhat abstract and not very specific when displayed as title of national websites, and it may appear that these translations are not aligned in the sense that they do not have the same meaning in all languages.

2. One approach that has been considered, based on the premise that the clearing-house mechanism is to provide online information exchange services, is to integrate the specific notion of information exchange in all translations. This is consistent with the trend in some French speaking countries to use “centre d’échange d’information” (information exchange centre) to be more explicit. After consultation with native speakers, a proposal along these lines is available in table 1 below.

Table 1: Translations of “clearing-house mechanism”

Language	Current Translation	Alternate Translation
Arabic	آلية غرفة تبادل المعلومات (Information exchange mechanism)	آلية غرفة تبادل المعلومات (Information exchange mechanism)
Chinese	资料交换所机制 (House of data exchange mechanism)	信息交换机制 (Information exchange mechanism)
French	Centre d’échange (Exchange centre)	Centre d’échange d’information (Information exchange centre)
Russian	механизм посредничества (Facilitation mechanism)	механизм обмена информацией (Information exchange mechanism)
Spanish	Mecanismo de facilitación (Facilitation mechanism)	Mecanismo de intercambio de información (Information exchange mechanism)

/...

In order to minimize the environmental impacts of the Secretariat’s processes, and to contribute to the Secretary-General’s initiative for a C-Neutral UN, this document is printed in limited numbers. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

3. However, this proposal was not included in the draft decision for the following reasons:

(a) All language versions of the Convention have the same legal status, and the Executive Secretary should not make proposals that may affect the Convention itself;

(b) The clearing-house mechanism was established to facilitate scientific and technical cooperation (Article 18 of the Convention) and the concept of “information exchange mechanism” (Article 17) can be considered too restrictive.

4. As a conclusion, the existing official translations contained in the Convention text do reflect the correct concept in line with Article 18, within the constraints of each of the languages. Therefore, after careful consideration of this matter, no changes to the official translations are proposed.
