



Ref: EDM/HZ/OJ

19 January 2001

Dear Madam/Sir,

NOTIFICATION

**Decision V/26 on Access to Genetic Resources:
Role of Intellectual Property Rights**

I wish to remind you of the Secretariat's notification of 25 August 2000 inviting Parties to submit information pertaining to the role of intellectual property rights in the implementation of access and benefit-sharing arrangements.

It is recalled that, in section A, paragraph 15, of Decision V/26, the Conference of the Parties noted that the Panel of Experts on Access and Benefit-Sharing was not able to come to any conclusions about the role of intellectual property rights in the implementation of access and benefit-sharing arrangements. The Panel developed a list of specific issues that require further study. These issues, which are set out in detail in paragraphs 127 to 138 of the report of the first meeting of the Panel (UNEP/CBD/5/8, pages 23-25), relate to:

- The role of intellectual property rights in prior informed consent;
- Intellectual property and traditional knowledge related to genetic resources;
- Intellectual property rights and access and benefit-sharing agreements;
- Scope, prior art and monitoring.

In paragraph 15 of decision V/26, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit to the Executive Secretary information on these issues by 31 December 2000. On the basis of these submissions and other relevant material, the Executive Secretary is required to prepare a report for the second meeting of the Panel of experts on Access and Benefit Sharing, to be held from 19 to 22 March 2001, or the first meeting of the Ad-Hoc Open-ended Working Group, to be held from 22 to 26 October 2001.

Please note that as of 31 December 2000, the Secretariat had not received any submissions concerning this issue. Thus, I wish to reiterate the invitation to submit contributions as soon as practicable.

I thank you for your cooperation and continued support to the work of the Convention.

Accept Madam/Sir the assurances of the highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: National Focal Points



United Nations
Environment
Programme

Tel.: (514) 288-2220
Fax: (514) 288-6588

website: www.biodiv.org
e-mail: secretariat@biodiv.org

World Trade Centre Building
393 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 300
Montréal, Québec, Canada H2Y 1N9