

NOTIFICATION

Second Meeting of the Panel of Experts on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing 19 – 22 March 2001 Montreal, Canada

I wish to inform Parties and governments that, pursuant to decision V/26, section A, paragraph 10, the Panel of Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing will hold its second meeting on 19-22 March 2001, at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Conference Center, in Montreal, Canada.

The Panel of Experts on Access and Benefit-Sharing was established pursuant to paragraph 3 of decision IV/8, in which the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity decided “to establish a regionally balanced panel of experts appointed by Governments, composed of representatives from the private and public sectors, as well as representatives of indigenous and local communities operating in accordance with decisions II/15, III/11 and III/15, under the Conference of the Parties”.

The Panel held its first meeting in San José, Costa Rica, in October 1999. The report of that meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/8) was considered by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting, held in Nairobi in May 2000. Having considered that report, the Conference of the Parties decided, *inter alia*, in decision V/26 A:

“[T]o reconvene the Panel of Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing with a concrete mandate and agenda. The Panel will conduct further work on outstanding issues from its first meeting, especially:

Assessment of user and provider experience in access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing and study of complementary options;

Identification of approaches to involvement of stakeholders in access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing processes;

and will include additional expertise. The Panel will submit its report to the Ad Hoc Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing referred to in paragraph 11 [of the decision];”

On the basis of nominations received from Governments, the Executive Secretary has invited the experts to participate in the second meeting of the Panel. In accordance with Decision V/26, the number of experts was increased from 50 to 60 in order to include additional expertise.

Since the Panel is being “reconvened”, experts who participated in the first meeting have been invited to participate in the second meeting. Additional experts were selected on the basis of the criteria used for the first meeting:

1. Demonstrated expertise and experience in the field of access and benefit-sharing;
2. Balanced geographical distribution between and within regions;
3. Fair representation of relevant stakeholders: Government, private sector, NGO;
4. Gender balance

To: National Focal Points

Documents for the meeting have been sent to participants and will be made available on the Secretariat's website as soon as possible, in English, French and Spanish.

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

Accept, Madam/Sir the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary