

Ref: SCBD/SEL/VN/GD/25571

1 March 2002

Dear Madam/Sir,

Re: Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing: Establishment of Expert Group on the Use of Terms in the draft Bonn Guidelines

By Notification dated 29 November 2001, the Executive Secretary invited Parties to take specific actions to implement recommendations adopted by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing at its meeting in Bonn, Germany, from 22-26 October 2001, including the **development of draft elements regarding the Use of Terms under paragraph 6 of the Draft Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits arising out of their Utilization.**

The Working Group recommended that the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, convene a group of ten experts nominated by Parties, having due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation, to develop draft elements of a decision on the use of terms in the Bonn Guidelines (e.g. paragraph 6 of the draft Bonn Guidelines).

In the Notification dated 29 November 2001, interested Parties were invited to nominate an expert and to communicate his/her name and curriculum vitae to the Secretariat no later than 31 December 2001. Due to the limited responses received by Parties, a reminder, dated 15 January 2002, was sent by the Executive Secretary extending the deadline to 15 February 2002.

As of 22 February 2002, 25 nominations had been received by Parties. On the basis of these nominations, the Secretariat has selected 10 experts on the basis of their expertise, the need to ensure equitable geographical distribution and with due regard to gender balance. The experts from the following countries were selected: Ethiopia, Nigeria, People's Republic of China, India, Poland, Ukraine, Cuba, Peru, Germany, Switzerland.

To: CBD National Focal Points



From now until COP VI, the Secretariat proposes to act as coordinator of the expert group on the use of terms. In order to move the process forward prior to COP VI, experts have been invited to provide to the Secretariat their suggestions regarding elements which should be included in the use of the following terms included in paragraph 6 of the draft Bonn Guidelines:

- *access to genetic resources;*
- *benefit-sharing;*
- *commercialisation;*
- *derivatives;*
- *provider;*
- *user;*
- *stakeholder;*
- *ex situ collection ;*
- *voluntary nature.”*

The Secretariat will then compile the information received from the experts in an information document. Subject to consultation with the Bureau, the compilation will be distributed at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, for its consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary