

Ref: SCBD/SEL/VN/OJ/32173

4 October 2002

Dear Madam/Sir,

NOTIFICATION**Second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing and Open Ended Expert Workshop on Capacity-building for Access and Benefit-sharing: dates and venue****Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing**

Further to the notification of 3 July 2002 (notification 2002-057) and following consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat has the honour to inform Parties that, subject to the availability of financial resources, the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing will be held from **10-14 February 2003**, at a venue to be determined.

In section A, paragraph 8 of decision VI/24, the COP decided to reconvene the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing to advise the Conference of the Parties on:

- (a) Use of terms, definitions and/or glossary, as appropriate;
- (b) Other approaches as set out in decision VI/24 B;
- (c) Measures, including consideration of their feasibility, practicality and costs, to support compliance with prior informed consent of the Contracting Party providing such resources and mutually agreed terms on which access was granted in Contracting Parties with users of genetic resources under their jurisdiction;
- (d) Its consideration of any available reports or progress reports arising from the present decision;
- (e) Needs for capacity-building identified by countries to implement the Guidelines.

In paragraph 9, the COP also requested the Executive Secretary to invite Parties, Governments and relevant international organisations to submit information on the issues referred to in paragraphs 8(a), (b), (c) and (e) referred to above and to make this information available to the Working Group and through the clearing-house mechanism.

In addition, the Working Group may wish to consider the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to determine how and to what extent the programme of work on access and benefit-sharing should be adjusted to take into account those elements of the "Plan of implementation"

To: All CBD National Focal Points

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dealing with access and benefit-sharing, with a view to formulating recommendations for the Intersessional Meeting on the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010, which will be held in March 2003.

Requested action by Parties

Parties and governments are invited to communicate to the Secretariat their views and any additional information of relevance to the issues to be examined by the Working Group. Such information will guide the Secretariat in the preparation of the pre-session documentation for the meeting. Contributions should be communicated to the Secretariat **no later than 31 October 2002** to allow the Secretariat to prepare the documentation in good time for the meeting.

Open Ended Expert Workshop on Capacity-building for Access and Benefit-sharing

Due to scheduling constraints and in consultation with the Bureau, the Open-ended Expert Workshop on Capacity-building for Access and Benefit-sharing will be held from **2-4 December 2002** (instead of 26-28 November 2002 as previously indicated), at the ICAO Headquarters in Montreal, Canada, subject to the availability of financial resources.

In accordance with decision VI/24B, paragraph 1, the mandate of the Workshop of the Workshop is to further develop the draft elements of an Action Plan on Capacity-building for Access and Benefit-sharing. In its notification 2002/052 of 3 July, the Secretariat invited Parties and governments to submit information on their needs and priorities and existing initiatives for capacity-building for access and benefit-sharing to the Secretariat, by 1st September 2002.

Funding requirements

Finally, the Secretariat wishes to emphasize that the organization of the above meetings as planned is subject to the availability of funds. The Open-ended Workshop on Capacity-building for Access and Benefit-sharing is to be funded entirely from voluntary contributions. Approximately US\$633,437 is required to cover the costs of conference services as well as airfares and per diems for the participation of developing country Parties and economies in transition. Thus far, an amount totalling approximately US\$80,000 has been pledged. Unless sufficient pledges are received by **31 October 2002**, the Executive Secretary will have no other alternative than to cancel the meeting.

With regard to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, the amount of US\$540,000 is needed to facilitate participation in the meeting (BZ Trust Fund). No contributions have been received thus far for this purpose.

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

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

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary