

Ref.: SCBD/SEL/VN/36208

26 June 2003

Dear Madam/Sir,

NOTIFICATION

Follow up to the Intersessional meeting of the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties: international regime on access and benefit sharing

The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in September 2002, called for action to “*negotiate within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, bearing in mind the Bonn Guidelines, an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources*”. In light of this outcome, the issue of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing was addressed by the Inter-sessional meeting on the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010, in March 2003. The Inter-sessional meeting recommended that “*the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing should, in its consideration of other approaches, in accordance with its mandate as specified in decision VI/24A, consider the process, nature, scope, elements and modalities of an international regime and provide advice to the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting on how it may wish to address this issue*”.

The Inter-sessional meeting invited “*Parties, other Governments, indigenous and local communities and relevant organizations to submit to the Executive Secretary their views on the process, nature, scope, elements and modalities of an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing prior to the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing*”. The Executive Secretary is requested to compile these views for the second meeting of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing.

In light of the above, indigenous and local communities and relevant organizations are hereby invited to provide their views on this matter to the Secretariat **by 15 September 2003**, in order for this information to be compiled by the Executive Secretary and made available for the second meeting of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing from 1 to 5 December 2003.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: Indigenous and local communities and relevant organisations

