



Convention on Biological Diversity

Secretariat

Ref.: SCBD/SEL/ML/GD/43979

9 June 2004

Dear Madam/Sir,

Decision VII/29 of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Transfer of technology and technology cooperation)

The purpose of this notification is to invite relevant international organizations to contribute to the implementation of the programme of work on technology transfer and technology cooperation (decision VII/29), in particular with regard to the establishment of an expert group, the preparation of documentation and the compilation and synthesis of information.

Establishment of an expert group on technology transfer and technical and scientific cooperation

Paragraph 7 of the decision *“requests the Executive Secretary to establish an expert group on technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation, balanced regionally as well as in respect to expertise, which shall assist the Executive Secretary, through electronic consultations and long-distance communications as well as through meetings in conjunction with the informal advisory committee of the clearing-house mechanism, in the:*

- (a) *Preparation of proposals on options to apply institutional, administrative, legislative and policy measures and mechanisms, including best practices, as well as to overcome barriers, to facilitate access to and adaptation of technologies on the public domain and to proprietary technologies by developing countries and countries with economies in transition; and in particular, on measures and mechanisms that:*
 - i. Foster an enabling environment in developing and developed countries for cooperation as well as the transfer, adaptation and diffusion of relevant technologies;*
 - ii. Provide, in accordance with existing international obligations, incentives to private-sector actors as well as public research institutions in developed country Parties, to encourage cooperation and transfer of technologies to developing countries, through, e.g., technology transfer programmes or joint-ventures;*
 - iii. Promote and advance priority access for Parties to the results and benefits arising from technologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Parties, in accordance with Article 19. 2 of the Convention, and to promote the effective participation in related technological research by those Parties;*

To: Relevant international organizations



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

- iv. *Promote innovative approaches and means of technology transfer and cooperation such as Type 2 partnerships in accordance with the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, or transfers among actors, involving in particular the private sector and civil society organizations;*
- (b) *Exploration of possibilities and mechanisms of cooperation with processes in other Conventions and international organizations, such as the UNFCCC Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT).“*

Requested Action:

International organizations interested to be considered for inclusion into the expert group on technology transfer and scientific and technical cooperation are requested to submit nominations of experts for the expert group to the Secretariat at their earliest convenience **but no later than 1 August 2004.**

Compilation and synthesis of information

In paragraph 3 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties invites Parties and relevant international organizations, and requests the Executive Secretary, to carry out the activities under their respective responsibilities as spelled out in the programme of work on technology transfer and technological and scientific information, annexed to the decision, up to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as a first phase in the implementation of the programme of work. The following programme activities to be undertaken by the Secretariat require input by Parties.

Under programme element 1, on technology assessments, the Secretariat is requested to undertake the following activity with input by international organizations:

- *Collect information on technology needs assessment methodologies, analyse their applicability and adaptation needs for technologies that are relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment, and disseminate this information through the clearing-house mechanism or other means, as appropriate. (activity 1.3.1)*

Under programme element 2, on information systems, the Secretariat is requested to undertake the following activities in collaboration with or with input by international organizations:

- *Development of proposals to enhance the clearing-house mechanism, including its national nodes, particularly those in developing countries, as a key mechanism for exchange of information on technologies and as a core element in its role to promote and facilitate scientific and technical cooperation, for facilitating and promoting technology transfer and cooperation and for the promotion of technical and scientific cooperation relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity or make use of genetic resources and do not cause significant damage to the environment.” (activity 2.1.2)*
- *Development of advice and guidance on the use of new information exchange formats, protocols and standards to enable interoperability among relevant existing systems of national and international information exchange, including technology and patent databases. (activity 2.1.3)*

- *Compilation and synthesis of information on national and regional information systems for technology transfer and cooperation, including the identification of best-practices and of needs for further improvements, in particular in regard to the accessibility of such systems for indigenous and local communities and all relevant stakeholders as well as information on capacity and human resources available and needed. (activity 2.2.1)*
- *Compilation and synthesis of information on regional and international information systems, including best-practices and opportunities for further development and make this information available through the clearing-house mechanism and other means, as appropriate. (activity 2.4.2)*

Under programme element 3, on creating enabling environments, the Secretariat is to undertake the following activity based on input by Parties:

- *Compilation and synthesis of information, including case studies, and preparation of guidance on institutional, administrative, legislative and policy frameworks that facilitate access to, adaptation and adaptation of technologies in the public domain and to proprietary technologies, especially by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and, in particular, on measures and mechanisms that:*
 - Foster an enabling environment in developing and developed countries for cooperation as well as the transfer, adaptation and diffusion of relevant technologies in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by countries;*
 - present obstacles that impede transfers of relevant technologies from developed countries;*
 - Provide, in accordance with existing international obligations, incentives to private-sector actors as well as public research institutions in developed country Parties, to encourage cooperation and transfer of technologies to developing countries, through, e.g., technology transfer programmes or joint-ventures;*
 - Promote and advance priority access for Parties to the results and benefits arising from technologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Parties, in accordance with Article 19. 2 of the Convention, and to promote the effective participation in related technological research by those Parties;*
 - Promote innovative approaches and means of technology transfer and cooperation such as Type 2 partnerships, in accordance with the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, or transfers among actors, involving in particular the private sector and civil society organizations. (activity 3.1.2)*

Requested Action:

In light of the above, international organizations are invited to communicate the following information to the Secretariat:

- any information on technology needs assessment methodologies;
- any information that could contribute to the development of proposals to enhance the clearing-house mechanism, including its national nodes, particularly those in developing countries, as a key mechanism for exchange of information on technologies and as a core element in its role to promote and facilitate scientific and technical cooperation;
- any information that could contribute to the development of advice and guidance on the use of new information exchange formats, protocols and standards to enable

interoperability among relevant existing systems of national and international information exchange, including technology and patent databases;

- any information on national and regional information systems for technology transfer and cooperation, including the identification of best-practices and of needs for further improvements, in particular in regard to the accessibility of such systems for indigenous and local communities and all relevant stakeholders as well as information on capacity and human resources available and needed;
- any information on regional and international information systems, including best practices and opportunities for further development;
- any information, including case studies, on institutional, administrative, legislative and policy frameworks that facilitate access to, adaptation and adaptation of technologies in the public domain and to proprietary technologies, especially by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and, in particular, on measures and mechanisms that
 - (a) foster an enabling environment in developing and developed countries for cooperation as well as the transfer, adaptation and diffusion of relevant technologies in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by countries;
 - (b) present obstacles that impede transfers of relevant technologies from developed countries;
 - (c) provide, in accordance with existing international obligations, incentives to private-sector actors as well as public research institutions in developed country Parties, to encourage cooperation and transfer of technologies to developing countries, through, e.g., technology transfer programmes or joint-ventures;
 - (d) promote and advance priority access for Parties to the results and benefits arising from technologies based upon genetic resources provided by those Parties, in accordance with Article 19. 2 of the Convention, and to promote the effective participation in related technological research by those Parties;
 - (e) promote innovative approaches and means of technology transfer and cooperation such as Type 2 partnerships, in accordance with the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, or transfers among actors, involving in particular the private sector and civil society organizations;

This information should be provided at the earliest convenience **but no later than 1 October 2004**.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary