

Ref: SCBD/SEL/OJ/GD/49687

12 July 2005

Dear Madam/Sir,

NOTIFICATION**FOURTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON ACCESS
AND BENEFIT-SHARING**

The purpose of this notification is to seek the views of Parties on a proposal by the European Union regarding the organization of work of the fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing, to be held in Granada, Spain, from 30 January 2006 to 3 February 2006.

At a meeting held in Montecatini, Italy, on 16 June 2005, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties discussed the question of the organization of work of the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing based on a draft annotated agenda prepared by the Secretariat. On that occasion, the European Union made a proposal for a new organization of work. According to this proposal each of the first three days of the meeting would be organized on a specific theme, namely provider measures, user measures and linkages. Each day would begin by one or two keynote presentations, which would provide clear and significant pointers to the issue under consideration, as well as needs and gaps to be resolved. Each day would end by clarifying possible components and elements to be fed into the International regime on the final day.

Bureau members emphasized the need for wider regional consultations on the proposal and agreed that comments be provided to the Executive Secretary by 31 July 2005 for the preparation of a revised text for consideration by the Bureau at its next meeting.

In light of this, the full text of the proposal from the European Union is attached for your consideration. Parties are invited to communicate their views on this matter to the Secretariat no later than 31 July as requested by the Bureau. The Secretariat will prepare a new proposed organization of work for the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing in light of comments received, for consideration by the Bureau at its next meeting to be held in Montreal, Canada, on 4 September 2005.

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

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: CBD National Focal Points, ABS National Focal Points



PROPOSAL FOR A NEW ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING

Fourth meeting, Granada Spain.
30 January to 3 February 2006

- The slow progress of negotiations in ABS-3 calls for a fresh look at the organization of work. Annex 1 of UNEP/CBD/WG-ABS/3/7 contains a large number of potential Elements and Objectives and 6 alternative options for Scope. The Nature of the regime remains undefined. Until the Nature is better defined, negotiations on the other elements and components cannot proceed. Unfortunately, until the elements and components are better understood, the Nature cannot be defined.
- The proposal is to conduct the entire meeting in plenary, unless the parties call for the establishment of sub-working groups, contact groups or drafting panels during the meeting. i.e. this will not be pre-judged.
- The proposal is for each of three of the days to be organized on a specific theme, namely: Provider Measures, User Measures and Linkages.
- Each day will be introduced by one or two key-note presentations. Key-note speakers will need to be carefully selected. The presentations must not be reviews or explanations of the *status quo*, but provide clear and significant pointers to the issues, needs and gaps that need to be resolved. Each presentation will need to be very focused, and will be reviewed by the secretariat or Bureau before the meeting, and a resume will be issued to participants before the meeting.
- Item 5, on the use of Terms, Definitions and/or Glossary is a practical issue. The secretariat has been invited to prepare a consolidated glossary of existing and any additional definitions, based on submissions by parties. The role of this item in shaping the International Regime is not specified below, but could be included at a number of points.
- Each day could be ended by clarifying possible components and elements to be fed into the International Regime on the final day.

	<i>Plenary</i>
Monday, 30 January 2006 9 a.m. to 12 noon.	<p><i>Items:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening of the meeting. 2. Organizational matters: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Officers; 2.2 Adoption of the agenda; 2.3 Organization of work. Item 3. Reports from Parties, Governments and relevant international organizations on the implementation of the Bonn Guidelines, capacity building and developments in relevant international processes.
2-5 p.m.	<p><u>SCOPE & NATURE OF A REGIME</u></p> <p>Key Note speakers 1 & 2. How an International Regime could operate.</p> <p>Item 4: Nature & Scope. Discussion on the possible components & elements of an International Regime, and its Nature. Identification of the issues, needs and gaps that will be discussed over the 5 days.</p>

<i>Plenary</i>	
<i>Tuesday, 31 January 2006 9 a.m. to 12 noon</i>	<p><u>PROVIDER MEASURES</u></p> <p>Key note speaker 3: Experiences of using certificates.</p> <p>Item 6. National and International Certificates. How can these be utilised and developed for use in Research, Museum Collecting, Cross-border movements, MTAs, PIC.</p>
2-5 p.m.	<p>Item 6. contd...</p> <p>... Possible components and elements to be fed into Item 4.</p>
<i>Wednesday, 1 February 2006 9 a.m. to 12 noon</i>	<p><u>USER MEASURES</u></p> <p>Key note speakers: 4 & 5: Scientific research and commercialisation.</p> <p>Science, Commercialisation and the Protection of rights.</p> <p>Item 7: measures to support compliance with MAT and PIC</p>
2-5 p.m.	<p>Item 7: contd...</p> <p>... Possible Components and Elements to be fed into Item 4.</p>
<i>Thursday, 2 February 2006 9 a.m. to 12 noon.</i>	<p><u>LINKAGES</u></p> <p>Key note speaker: 6: Strengthening the link between ex-situ resources and their origins.</p> <p>Traceability, Disclosure and Functioning of a Regime.</p> <p>Item:8: Strategic Plan, in particular the options to ensure Benefit-sharing, and the development of Indicators.</p>
2-5 p.m.	<p>Item 8: contd...</p> <p>... Possible Components and Elements to be fed into Item 4.</p>
<i>Friday, 3 February 2006 9 a.m. to 12 noon.</i>	<p>Item 4: Consolidation and review of Components and Elements identified through each of the three items 6-8 of an International Regime. A discussion on the Issues, Needs and Gaps highlighted through these discussions.</p>
2-5 p.m.	<p>9. Other matters</p> <p>10. Adoption of the report</p> <p>11. Closure of the meeting</p>

Preliminary proposals for possible speakers:

1. Robert Koehane, Princeton
2. William Clark, Harvard
3. Eduardo Velez, Brazil
4. Manuel Ruiz, Peru
5. Leonard Hirsch, Smithsonian
6. Patent Lawyer., India