



# Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Ref.: SCBD/SEL/OJ/VN/GD/64650

18 August 2008

## NOTIFICATION

### REISSUED FOR TECHNICAL REASON

**Subject: Access and Benefit-sharing: Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Concepts, Terms, Working Definitions and Sectoral Approaches (Windhoek, Namibia, 2-5 December 2008) – nomination of experts and submission of views**

Dear Madam/Sir,

In its decision IX/12, paragraph 11, the Conference of the Parties decided, *inter alia*, to establish a group of technical and legal experts to further examine the issue of concepts, terms, working definitions and sectoral approaches in order to assist the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing in the elaboration and negotiation of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing. Following the kind invitation of the Government of Namibia and with the generous financial support from the Government of Canada, the group of legal and technical experts will meet in Windhoek, Namibia, on 2-5 December 2008.

The terms of reference for the expert group, set out in Annex II C to the decision, are as follows:

“The Expert Group will address the following questions:

(a) What are the different ways of understanding biological resources, genetic resources, derivatives and products and what are the implications of each understanding for the development of the main components of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing, including in relation to sectoral and subsectoral activities and in relation to commercial and non-commercial research?

(b) Identify different forms of utilization of genetic resources in relation to sectoral and subsectoral activities in the context of Article 15, paragraph 7, of the Convention;

(c) Identify and describe sector specific characteristics of access and benefit-sharing arrangements and to identify the differences, if any, between approaches in sectors;

(d) What are the range of options and approaches for taking these different characteristics into account and that may bring coherence to access and benefit-sharing related practices in different sectors?

To: CBD National Focal Points and ABS National Focal Points, international organizations, indigenous and local communities and stakeholders



### Nomination of experts

The Conference of the Parties further decided that the group of experts shall be regionally balanced and composed of thirty experts nominated by Parties and fifteen observers, including three observers from indigenous and local communities nominated by them, and remaining observers from, *inter alia*, international organizations and agreements, industry, research institutions/academia and non-governmental organizations.

In light of the above, Parties are hereby invited to submit the nomination of experts to the Secretariat at their earliest convenience but **no later than 30 September 2008**. The nominees should have relevant and recognized expertise with regard to the issues to be discussed by the meeting to ensure its successful outcome.

Indigenous and local communities, international organizations and agreements, industry, research institutions/academia and non-governmental organizations are also invited to submit the nomination of observers for participation in the expert group at their earliest convenience and **no later than 30 September 2008**.

Based on the nominations received, the Executive Secretary will recommend a list of experts and observers for the approval of the Bureau in accordance with paragraph 12 of decision IX/12. Experts and observers will be selected on the basis of expertise, the need to ensure a fair and equitable geographical distribution, as well as gender balance.

### Submission of views

In paragraph 15 of decision IX/12, the Conference of the Parties also invited Parties, Governments, international organizations, indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders to provide information and views related to the issues to be addressed by each expert group six weeks prior to the convening of each group. Therefore, Parties, organizations, indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders are hereby invited to submit views and other information to the Secretariat **as soon as possible but no later than 17 October 2008**.

**Please note that, in order to facilitate preparatory work, all submissions should be provided in Word format.**

Views and other information provided will be compiled by the Secretariat and made available to the expert group.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif  
Executive Secretary