



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Ref.: SCBD/SEL/VN/GD/64971

19 September 2008

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Decision IX/12 on Access and Benefit-sharing: submission of views and proposals for the seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing

Dear Madam/Sir,

The purpose of this notification is to invite Parties, other Governments, international organizations, indigenous and local communities, and relevant stakeholders to submit views and proposals, including operational text, for further elaboration and negotiation of the international regime on access and benefits-sharing in preparation for the seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, which will be held at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, on 2-8 April 2009.

In decision IX/12, paragraph 2, the Conference of the Parties reiterated its instruction to the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing to complete the elaboration and negotiation of the international access and benefit-sharing regime at the earliest possible time before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with decision VII/19 D and decision VIII/4 A.

In paragraph 5 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties decided that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing should meet three times prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, each meeting to be preceded by two days of regional and interregional consultations.

In paragraph 7, the Conference of the Parties further decided that the purpose of these Working Group meetings will be as follows unless otherwise proposed by the Parties at the meeting and decided by the Bureau in consultation with the Co-Chairs:

(a) *Seventh meeting.* Negotiation of operational text on the objective, scope, compliance, fair and equitable benefit-sharing, access;

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



(b) *Eighth meeting.* Negotiation of operational text on nature, traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, capacity-building, compliance, fair and equitable benefit-sharing, access;

(c) *Ninth meeting.* Consolidation of all operational text developed at the seventh and eighth meetings of the Working Group;

In paragraph 9, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties, other Governments, international organizations and indigenous and local communities, and relevant stakeholders to submit, for further elaboration and negotiation of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing, views and proposals including operational text, where relevant, in respect of the main components listed in the annex I to decision IX/12, preferably with supporting rationale.

In paragraph 10, the Executive Secretary is requested to compile the submissions received and to collate in three separate documents:

- (a) Any operative text submitted;
- (b) Operative text including related explanations and rationale;
- (c) Any other views and information;

by subject matter, in accordance with the annex I to decision IX/12 and as indicated in the submissions, and to identify in the collation the respective sources. It further requested the Executive Secretary to make the compilation and these documents available to Parties sixty days prior to the seventh meeting of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing.

In accordance with the above, Parties, other Governments, international organizations, indigenous and local communities, and relevant stakeholders are kindly requested to provide their submissions to the Secretariat as soon as practicable but no later than **15 December 2008**.

Please note that all submissions may be provided in any word processing format.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary