



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Ref.: SCBD/SEL/OJ/VN/GD/65783

12 December 2008

NOTIFICATION

Seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS WG-7), Paris, France, 2-8 April 2009

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to confirm that the seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABSWG-7) will be held at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Headquarters in Paris, from 2-8 April 2009.

The provisional agenda of the meeting is attached for your information and is available on the Secretariat's web site at: <http://www.cbd.int/notifications>. Other documents for the meeting will be made available no later than sixty days prior to the meeting. The information note for participants will be made available as soon as practicable on the CBD web site at the following address: <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/>.

In accordance with paragraphs 5 and 7 of decision IX/12 of the Conference of the Parties, the meeting will be held over the duration of seven consecutive days and will be preceded by two days of regional and interregional consultations, on 31 March and 1 April 2009.

In addition, as for previous meetings, the Co-chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, Mr. Fernando Casas of Colombia and Mr. Timothy Hodges of Canada, will be holding open-ended informal consultations, as well as bilateral consultations, with interested delegates on 31 March and 1 April 2009. Further information regarding the time and exact venue of these consultations will be communicated in due course.

Subject to the availability of funds in the Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BZ), the Secretariat will finance the participation of one representative to the meeting from each of the developing country Parties to the Convention, in particular the least developed and small-island developing States amongst them, and Parties with economies in transition. In view of the budget constraints, and in order to allow the participation of a larger number of delegates, the Secretariat will be using special airfare tickets, which impose restrictions with respect to the changing of passenger's name, travel dates and itinerary.

To: CBD National Focal Points
ABS National Focal Points



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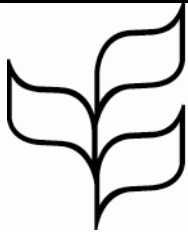
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Parties are invited to communicate to the Secretariat the name(s) and coordinates of their Government's officially designated representative(s) to the meeting **no later than 2 March 2009**. Designation of representatives to attend the meeting should be submitted through official letter addressed to the Executive Secretary by fax to +1 514 288 6588, or by email as a scanned attachment to: secretariat@cbd.int.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

Attachment



**Convention on
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AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON
ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING

Seventh meeting
Paris, 2-8 April 2009

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Organizational matters
3. International regime on access and benefit-sharing: negotiation of operational text on:
 - 3.1 Objective;
 - 3.2 Scope;
 - 3.3 Compliance;
 - 3.4 Fair and equitable benefit-sharing;
 - 3.5 Access.
4. Other matters.
5. Adoption of the report.
6. Closure of the meeting.
