



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Ref.: SCBD/SEL/VN/GD/66101

22 January 2009

NOTIFICATION

Seventh meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing: Informal consultations with the Co-chairs and regional consultations 31 March - 1 April 2009, UNESCO, Paris, France

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to inform you that the Co-chairs of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABSWG), Mr. Fernando Casas of Colombia and Mr. Timothy Hodges of Canada, will be holding informal consultations in Paris, France, on 31 March and 1 April 2009 prior to the seventh meeting of ABSWG, which will also be held in Paris on 2-8 April 2009 at the Headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In addition, in accordance with decision IX/12, paragraph 5, the meeting of the Working Group will be preceded by two days of regional and interregional consultations.

Informal consultations with the Co-chairs

The Co-chairs wish to inform Parties, governments, organizations and stakeholders that they will hold open-ended informal consultations for all interested delegations and stakeholders on Wednesday, 1st April from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. In addition, the Co-chairs will be available for consultations with individual delegations or representatives of regional and other groups on 31st March from 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m., and on 1st April from 2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Please note that the open-ended informal consultations and the consultations with individual delegations will be held in room XIII of the UNESCO Annex, located at: *1, rue Miollis, 75015 Paris*.

In order to gain access to the UNESCO Annex, delegates are kindly requested to first obtain their meeting badges at the entrance to UNESCO Headquarters located at *125, avenue Suffren, 75015 Paris*, which will be valid for the duration of ABSWG-7. More information regarding the venue, registration procedures, hotel accommodation, etc. will be made available in the Information Note for Participants.

To: CBD National Focal Points
ABS National Focal Points
International organizations
Indigenous and local community organizations
Stakeholders



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Delegates who wish to meet with the Co-chairs individually and/or to participate in the open-ended informal consultations on 31st March and/or 1st April are kindly requested to inform the Secretariat at their earliest convenience in order to make necessary arrangements.

Regional and interregional consultations

In accordance with decision IX/12, paragraph 5, which decided that meetings of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing should be preceded by two days of regional and interregional consultations, the following rooms will be made available at UNESCO Headquarters for regional and interregional consultations on 31st March and 1st April from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.:

Africa:	Room VI on 31 March; Room II on 1 April and thereafter
Asia and the Pacific:	Room VII
Central and Eastern Europe:	Room A.35
European Union:	Room IX
JUSCANZ:	Room A.26
GRULAC:	Room VIII
LMMC:	Room VI, as of April 1 st

The same rooms will be available for regional consultations from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. daily, as per usual practice, during ABSWG-7, from 2 through 8 April.

For the Group of Like-minded Megadiverse Countries, room VI will be made available from 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. daily.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary