



# Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



INTERNATIONAL  
DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY  
**22 May 2008**  
**BIODIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURE**

Ref.: SCBD/SEL/OJ/GD/66724

10 March 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,

The Secretariat is pleased to attach herewith a letter from the Co-chairs of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABSWG) concerning the informal consultations to be held on 31 March and 1 April 2009, before the opening of the seventh meeting of the ABSWG, as well as the agenda for the open-ended informal consultations.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif  
Executive Secretary

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



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9 March 2009

Dear Colleagues,

First, we wish to take this opportunity to remind you of the informal consultations we are holding in advance of the seventh meeting of the Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing (WGABS-7). As per the Secretariat notification dated 22 January 2009 (ref SCBD/SEL/VN/GD/66101), we welcome you to an open-ended informal consultations on Wednesday, 1 April from 10:00 to 13:00 at UNESCO Headquarters.

Second, we would also like to confirm that we will be available for consultations with individual delegations and representatives of regional and other groups on 31 March from 10:00 to 13:00 and from 14:00 to 18:00, and on 1 April from 14:00 -18:00.

Please note that those of you who wish to meet with Co-chairs individually and/or to participate in the open-ended informal consultations on 31 March and/or 1 April are kindly requested to inform the Secretariat at your earliest convenience in order to make necessary arrangements.

During these two days of informal consultations it is our intention to discuss a recommended approach for the Working Group to its seventh meeting. In order to ensure an efficient discussion of this approach we are preparing in advance a scenario note to clarify matters related to the conduct of WGABS.

We trust that these informal consultations will lay the basis for smooth and fruitful negotiations on substance throughout the Working Group meeting.

We wish you all the very best in your preparations for this important negotiation and we look forward to welcoming you in Paris.

Sincerely,

[SIGNED]

Timothy Hodges  
Co-Chair  
Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing,  
Convention on Biological Diversity

[SIGNED]

Fernando Casas  
Co-Chair

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WGABS-7  
Open-ended Informal Consultation with the Co-Chairs

Wednesday, 1 April 2009  
10:00 - 13:00

Draft Agenda

1. Welcoming Remarks (Co-Chairs)
2. Roundtable Introductions (All)
3. Review of Agenda (All)
4. Purpose of Consultations (Co-Chairs)
5. WGABS7: (Co-Chairs, SCBD, All)
  - Context
  - Possible workflow scenario
  - Regional/Inter-regional consultations
  - COP Bureau
  - Side events
6. Other matters (All)