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Date: 6 July 2009

NOTIFICATION

Eighth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (WG-ABS 8), Montreal, Canada, 9-15 November 2009

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to confirm that the eighth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (WG-ABS 8) will be held at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Headquarters in Montreal, from 9-15 November 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/meetings/>. 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 same address.

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 7-8 November 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 7-8 November 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. However, since the meeting of the Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing will be held back to back with the sixth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (WG8J-6), please note that the Secretariat will only be able to fund one representative from any eligible country for both meetings.

To: CBD National Focal Points
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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.

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 15 September 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

Annex

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 Nature;
 - 3.2 Traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources;
 - 3.3 Capacity-building;
 - 3.4 Compliance;
 - 3.5 Fair and equitable benefit-sharing;
 - 3.6 Access.
4. Other matters.
5. Adoption of the report.
6. Closure of the meeting.



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