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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 web site of the Convention 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.

In view of your interest in the issues addressed by the Working Group, I have the honour of inviting your indigenous and local community organization to nominate a representative to attend. Designation of representatives, containing their name and contact details, should be submitted through official letters to be addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat by fax to **+1 514 288 6588**, or by email as a scanned attachment to: secretariat@cbd.int, as soon as possible but **no later than 15 September 2009**.

Indigenous and local communities representatives **wishing to receive funding** from the Voluntary Trust Fund to facilitate their participation in the above-mentioned meeting, in accordance

To: Indigenous and Local Community Organizations



with decision VIII/5 D on the Voluntary Funding Mechanism to facilitate the participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Convention, are invited to submit their application forms no later than **3 August, 2009**. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

In addition, please note that the meeting of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing will be held back to back with the sixth meeting of the Working Group on Article 8(j). Therefore, applicants from indigenous and local communities who indicate they are able to participate in both meetings will be given priority in the selection process.

The Voluntary Trust Fund application forms are available in the six official languages of the United Nations on the CBD website at the following link: <https://www.cbd.int/traditional/fund.shtml>. The completed application forms should be sent to the Secretariat either by fax to: **+1 514 288 6588**, or by electronic mail as a scanned attachment to: secretariat@cbd.int, together with a recent **Curriculum Vitae and an official letter of recommendation** from the relevant organization addressed to the Executive Secretary of the CBD.

I look forward to the participation of your organization in the meeting and your continued contribution to the work of the Convention.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaf
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.
