

Ref.: SCBD/SEL/OJ/GD/69034

30 October 2009

NOTIFICATION

Reminder

**Subject: Eighth meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing:
Informal consultations with the Co-chairs
7-8 November 2009, Montreal, Canada**

Dear Madam/Sir,

With reference to notification 2009-132 of 9 October 2009 on the Informal consultations conducted by the Co-chairs of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, the Secretariat is pleased to attach a message from the Co-chairs together with an agenda for the open-ended informal consultations to be held on Sunday 8 November 2009 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in room 3 of the ICAO Conference Center.

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 and stakeholders

30 October 2009

Dear Colleagues,

We wish to take this opportunity to remind you (as per SCBD Notification 2009-132 of 9 October 2009) that we will hold informal consultations in Montréal in advance of the eighth meeting of the Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing (WGABS-8).

It will be our pleasure to welcome you to an open-ended informal consultation for all interested delegations and stakeholders, from 10:00 to 13:00 on Sunday, 8 November 2009. The open-ended informal consultations will be held in Room 3 of the ICAO Conference Center. A draft agenda is attached.

In addition, we will be available for consultations with individual delegations or representatives of regional and other groups, as well as stakeholders, from 10:00 to 13:00 and from 15:00 to 18:00 on Saturday, 7 November. The consultations with individual delegations will be held in the Co-Chairs' office, also located in the ICAO Conference Center.

Delegates who wish to meet with us individually on 7 November are kindly requested to inform the Secretariat at their 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 the forthcoming meeting. In order to ensure an efficient discussion of this approach we have prepared a Co-Chairs Scenario Note to clarify matters related to the conduct of WGABS-8 and its outcomes. This note was circulated by the Secretariat on 29 October via CBD Notification 2009-146. It is also available on the Secretariat website at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=ABSWG-08>.

We wish to thank the Executive Secretary for making these arrangements and circulating information at our request.

WGABS-8 is of pivotal importance in the history of the Working Group and we trust that these informal consultations will lay the foundation for accelerated negotiations.

We wish you all the best in your preparations for this crucial meeting and we look forward to welcoming you in Montréal.

Sincerely,

[SIGNED]
Timothy Hodges
Co-Chair

[SIGNED]
Fernando Casas
Co-Chair

Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing,
Convention on Biological Diversity

WGABS-8

Open-ended Informal Consultation With the Co-Chairs

Sunday, 08 November 2009

10:00 - 13:00

Room 3

ICAO Conference Center

999 University Street

Montréal

Draft Agenda

1. Welcoming Remarks
2. Roundtable Introductions
3. Review of Agenda
4. Purpose of Consultations
5. WGABS-8:
 - Context
 - Possible workflow scenario
 - Expectations
 - Regional/Inter-regional consultations
 - COP Bureau
 - Side events
6. Other matters