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13 January 2010

NOTIFICATION

Decision IX/12 on Access and Benefit-sharing: Regional Consultations in support of the finalization of the International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing

Regional Consultation for African Countries, 4-6 March 2010, Windhoek, Namibia

Dear Madam/Sir,

In decision IX/12 on Access and Benefit-sharing, paragraph 17, the Conference of the Parties (COP) emphasized the importance of consultations to advance the negotiations of the International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing and requested the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (WG-ABS) to be instrumental in organizing and facilitating such consultations during the intersessional period. It also encouraged Parties and stakeholders to carry out bilateral, regional and interregional meetings and consultations and called upon donors and relevant organizations to provide financial resources necessary for such meetings and consultations.

In addition, in paragraph 22 of the same decision, the COP invited the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), governments and other international organizations to support regional and interregional consultations in close collaboration with the Secretariat.

In accordance with the above, and further to notification 2009-010 of 24 August 2009 announcing the tentative calendar of the regional consultations, I am pleased to confirm that the regional consultation for African countries will be hosted by the Government of Namibia and will be held in Windhoek, Namibia, on 4-6 March 2010.

This consultation is made possible by the generous financial support of the Government of Denmark. It is being co-organized in close collaboration between the ABS Capacity Development Initiative for Africa which is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, and the CBD Secretariat, and in consultation with the Co-Chairs of WG-ABS. The regional consultation will provide an opportunity for the negotiators from the region to consult and exchange views on the components of the International Regime during the intersessional period with a view to finalizing the negotiations of the

To: CBD National Focal Points and ABS National Focal Points from the African Region



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220, Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



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COP 10 / MOP 5

International Regime at the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing.

Furthermore, this consultation will allow the negotiators to prepare for the conference of African environmental leaders which is hosted by the Government of Namibia and the African Ministerial Council on the Environment (AMCEN). Its objective is to prepare African leaders and their negotiators for the final decision making on access and benefit-sharing and the high-level segment of COP 10. The conference is taking place in Windhoek, Namibia, from 8-10 March 2010, back-to-back with the African consultation. Invitations for the conference were sent out by the Namibian Minister of Environment and Tourism in December 2009.

Parties from the African region are invited to confirm their participation by providing the name(s) and coordinates of their government's officially designated representative(s) to the consultation **no later than Friday, 12th February 2010.** Designation of representatives to attend the meeting should be submitted through an official letter by fax to +264 61 400 984, or by email as a scanned attachment to info@events.com.na. Please also copy the CBD Secretariat (by fax to +1 514 288 6588, or email to secretariat@cbd.int) and the GTZ (by fax to +49 6196 7980 2161, or by email to melanie.bassiouris@gtz.de).

Please note that, for the consultation, one representative per country will be financially supported. However, each country may designate a second representative to attend the consultation.

A tentative agenda for the consultation is attached. Further details regarding the program and logistical aspects will be provided to designated participants in due course and will be made available on the CBD website at: <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/>.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

Attachments

**Regional Consultation for Africa in support of the finalization of the
International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing**

Windhoek, Namibia, 4-6 March 2010

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Feedback on important activities of the inter-sessional period
3. Technical input:
 - a. Analysis of WG-ABS 8 outcomes
 - b. Analysis of Cairo meeting's recommendations and input
4. Analysis of key issues:
 - a. Key interests and priorities of the African Group
 - b. Analysis of other regions, countries positions (in light of the outcomes of WG-ABS 8)
 - c. Refining the African position on selected issues
5. Other matters
6. Closing