



Convention on
Biological Diversity



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22 January 2010

NOTIFICATION

Access and Benefit-sharing: Co-Chairs Informal Inter-regional Consultation (CIIC) 16-18 March 2010, Cali, Colombia

Dear Madam/Sir,

At the conclusion of the eighth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (WG-ABS 8), the Co-Chairs outlined their approach to inter-sessional work prior to the ninth meeting of the Working Group, including the Co-Chairs Informal Inter-regional Consultation (CIIC), to be held in Cali, Colombia on 16-18 March 2010.

Following informal discussions with Parties and consultations with the President and Members of the Bureau, the Co-Chairs wish to confirm the following:

- The CIIC will take place over a period of three days, from 16 to 18 March 2010, in Cali, Colombia, with invitees expected to arrive no later than the afternoon of 15 March to allow for an initial consultation on the evening of 15 March;
- The CIIC will be chaired by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing;
- Each of the UN regions is invited to identify a total of eight representatives amongst Parties (of which five will be active participants at any given time and the remaining three to serve as advisors). Upon request, at any time during the meeting, regions may replace designated active participants with advisors. In identifying the eight regional representatives, it is not necessary at this juncture to distinguish between participants and advisors;
- In addition, there will be three representatives (two as active participants and a third acting as an advisor) each from indigenous and local communities, industry, public research institutions and civil society. Rotation between these participants and advisors may also occur upon request;
- Given the above, 52 participants would be seated at the table at any given time (i.e. 40 from Parties and an additional 12 from indigenous and local communities, industry, research institutions and civil society). In addition, one representative of the COP 9 and COP 10 Presidencies are invited to observe the meeting.

To: CBD and ABS National Focal Points; international organizations;
indigenous and local communities and stakeholders



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- The CIIC, which has been mandated to consult on preambular text, definitions and provisions relevant to the consolidation of operative text of the International Regime, will identify concrete solutions in order to facilitate and accelerate the negotiations at the ninth meeting of the Working Group.
- The CIIC is expected to benefit from the Co-Chairs' report on the meeting of the Friends of the Co-Chairs, the two annexes to the report of the eighth meeting of the Working Group, as well as documents made available for the ninth meeting of the Working Group, including available reports from all regional consultations and submissions by Parties on preambular text, definitions and text for inclusion in Annex II.
- Participants in the meeting are expected to report back to their respective regions/groups to facilitate both the regional consultations and the Co-Chairs open-ended informal consultation to be held on 20-21 March 2010.
- The Co-Chairs will report on the CIIC meeting to the Working Group on ABS at its ninth meeting.

Process for participation in these consultations:

- Bureau members from each region are kindly requested to liaise with their respective regions and provide to the Secretariat the names of the eight representatives of their respective regions to participate in the CIIC by **20 February 2010**.
- Representatives from indigenous and local communities, industry, public research institutions and civil society interested in participating in the CIIC are invited to provide to the Secretariat the names of their representatives by **20 February 2010**. Based on the nominations received, the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Co-Chairs, will select three representatives respectively from indigenous and local communities, industry, public research institutions and civil society. The selection process will be based on expertise, geographical distribution and gender balance.
- With respect to financial support for developing country representatives, given that the CIIC is held back-to-back with the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, please note that the Secretariat will financially support one representative from any eligible country for both meetings. For further information on funding for WG ABS-9, please refer to the Secretariat notification 2009-180 of 22 December 2009 (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2009/ntf-2009-180-abs-en.pdf>)
- The designation of representatives to attend the meeting should be submitted through an 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