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9 July 2010

NOTIFICATION

Information kit on Access and Benefit-sharing

Dear Madam/Sir,

The need to raise awareness and to build capacity with respect to access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing has been recognized by the Conference of the Parties (COP) on numerous occasions. At the most recent COP, in decision IX/32 on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA), paragraph 10, Parties were invited "...to provide support to regional and sub-regional communication, education and public awareness activities related to access and benefit-sharing, including through, *inter alia*, **the development of communication strategies and products designed to increase awareness among decision makers and relevant stakeholders**".

Thanks to the generous financial support from the Government of Germany, a generic information kit has been developed to present the core issues of access and benefit-sharing in a simple and straightforward language. The information kit is available in the six official languages of the United Nations and contains the following:

- A brochure
- Factsheets on:
 - o Access and benefit
 - o Uses of genetic resources
 - o Traditional knowledge
 - o The Bonn Guidelines
 - o National implementation
- PowerPoint slides (English only)

This information tool is intended for use by a variety of actors, including Parties and stakeholders, in their efforts to raise awareness on access and benefit-sharing within their constituencies. A hard copy of the kit will be sent to all CBD and ABS National Focal Points by mail. It is also available electronically and can be downloaded at: www.cbd.int/abs/. Additional hard copies can be made available upon requests addressed to secretariat@cbd.int.

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