



Ref.: SCBD/NP/VN/BG/jh/85225

2 December 2015

NOTIFICATION

Assessment of Progress in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 16 on the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization

Madam/Sir,

As we are fast approaching the end of 2015, it is time to take stock of progress in the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 16, which provides that “by 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.”

To date, 69 Parties to the CBD have already ratified the Nagoya Protocol, and a number of additional ratifications and accessions to the Protocol are expected in the coming months as a number of countries are finalizing their national processes. I would like to take this opportunity to strongly encourage you to expedite your internal processes with a view to depositing your instrument of ratification or accession as soon as possible.

Ratifying the Protocol will send a clear message of your commitment to achieving one of the three objectives of the Convention: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 16. It will also contribute to our collective efforts towards the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Targets 2.5 and 15.6.

Depositing your instrument of ratification or accession before September 2016 will also enable your country to participate as a Party in the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP) and to play an important role in the decision-making process to support its implementation.

You will recall that the Nagoya Protocol has established the ABS Clearing-House as the means for sharing information on access and benefit-sharing. With a view to support the ABS Clearing-House as the central repository of information related to access and benefit-sharing, I also encourage you to make ABS-related information available on the ABS Clearing-House as soon as possible, in particular information related to ABS competent national authorities and ABS legislative, administrative or policy measures. Indeed, in accordance with COP-MOP decision NP-1/2, paragraphs 8 and 10, States that are not yet Parties to the Protocol are invited to make relevant information available to the ABS Clearing-House.

To : ABS National Focal Points of non-Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (CBD National Focal Points of Non-Parties where ABS National Focal Points have not yet been designated)



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Guidance on how to make information available on the ABS Clearing-House is provided in the attached document. The Secretariat will be pleased to assist you in this process.

In addition, with a view to assist the Secretariat in following developments at the national level, I wish to invite you to make information on the following available to the Secretariat:

- (a) Progress towards the ratification or accession to the Nagoya Protocol;
- (b) Progress towards the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, including as follows:
 - (i) The establishment of institutional structures, including the designation of a national focal point on access and benefit-sharing, and one or more competent national authorities and checkpoints;
 - (ii) The adoption, development or revision of legislative, administrative or policy measures on access and benefit-sharing; and
 - (iii) Any other steps taken towards the implementation of the Protocol.

In preparation for the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to be held from 2 to 6 May 2016, in Montreal, Canada, the Secretariat will prepare a report on progress towards the implementation of Aichi Target 16. **Information made available by 22 January 2016 at the latest will be reflected in this report.** Please note that information should be sent through an official letter addressed to the Executive Secretary by e-mail to secretariat@cbd.int.

Thank you for your kind cooperation.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

STEPS TOWARDS MAKING INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE ABS CLEARING-HOUSE

States that are not yet Parties to the Protocol are invited to make information on competent national authorities, as well as other information related to access and benefit-sharing, available to the ABS Clearing-House (COP-MOP decision NP-1/2, paragraphs 8 and 10).

However, in order to make information available on the ABS Clearing-House, Parties to the CBD first need to nominate a publishing authority who will register the information in the ABS Clearing-House and ensure that all information made available is complete, non-confidential, relevant and up-to-date.

How to designate the publishing authority for the ABS Clearing-House and national authorized users

The national focal point on access and benefit-sharing is to communicate to the Secretariat the designation of the publishing authority for the ABS Clearing-House. The designation should be submitted to the Executive Secretary using the following form: <http://www.cbd.int/abs/doc/commonformats/ABSCH-PA-NAU.doc>

In addition, publishing authorities can designate one or more national authorized users, as needed, to assist in the preparation of draft national records. The designation of national authorized users can be done at the time of designation of the publishing authority and through the same form mentioned above or at any time by the national focal point on access and benefit-sharing or the publishing authority.

These designations may be sent to the Executive Secretary by fax to +1 514 288 6588 or by e-mail as an attachment to secretariat@cbd.int and must contain the complete contact details and the appropriate endorsements.

How to make information available to the ABS Clearing-House

Upon receipt of the designation of the publishing authority and after the Secretariat has made the necessary arrangements, the publishing authority will receive an e-mail confirming that they can start publishing information on the ABS Clearing-House.

The publishing authority can, then, make the information on competent national authorities and other relevant information on access and benefit-sharing available on the ABS Clearing-House by completing the appropriate forms found in the 'submit information' section of the ABS Clearing-House (<https://absch.cbd.int/>).

The Secretariat can provide support through various mechanisms to ensure effective contribution to the ABS Clearing-House. More information is available in the help section of the ABS Clearing-House (<https://absch.cbd.int/help>) under Frequently Asked Questions. For any questions or assistance regarding the ABS Clearing-House, please contact us at absch@cbd.int.