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30 October 2018

## NOTIFICATION

### Parallel events on Access and Benefit-Sharing during the 2018 United Nations Biodiversity Conference 17 -29 November 2018 – Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt

Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to announce parallel events related to access and benefit-sharing (ABS) which will take place on the margins of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and its concurrent meetings in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, and invite you to register to the following events as soon as possible:

1. ABS Clearing-House Workshop: “How to effectively use the ABS Clearing-House and facilitate the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol”

This workshop will take place on Friday, 23 November 2018, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This half-day workshop is organized by the Secretariat and made possible thanks to the generous support of the Government of Japan. The aim of the workshop is to inform participants of the recent changes to the ABS Clearing-House, including introducing two new common formats as well as other important improvements, and to provide training on the Protocol’s system to monitor the utilization of genetic resources through the ABS Clearing-House.

This workshop is open to all participants. Please confirm your participation with the Secretariat by sending your full contact details, as well as any specific questions you would like to address during the workshop by e-mail to: [absch@cbd.int](mailto:absch@cbd.int). Kindly note that space is limited and priority will be given to those who have confirmed their participation by 5 November 2018. More information on the workshop is available at the following web page: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2018/information/absch-workshop>.

2. Global Business and Biodiversity Forum: Session on ABS and BioTrade

During the Global Business and Biodiversity Forum, the session “Biological and Genetic Resources – Innovations and Supply Chains in support of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2030”, which will take place on Thursday, 15 November 2018, from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m., will address ABS and BioTrade as building blocks for sustainable development. The session on ABS and BioTrade is co-organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Union for Ethical BioTrade and the ABS Capacity-Development Initiative. More information on the Forum is available at the following web page: <https://www.cbd.int/business/meetings-events/2018/default.shtml>. Please register as soon as possible.

To: ABS National Focal Points (CBD National Focal Points where ABS National Focal Points have not yet been designated)

3. CEPA Fair: Event on “Connecting with your audience and demystifying communication on ABS”

In cooperation with the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is hosting an event at the CEPA Fair on demystifying communication on ABS. This event will take place on Wednesday, 21 November 2018, from 1 p.m. until 3.30 p.m. Participants are invited to share their experiences on CEPA activities and discuss trends and opportunities on the best way forward in communicating on ABS and the Nagoya Protocol. In addition, the Secretariat will present a new publication relevant for strategic communication on ABS: “CEPA toolkit including consideration for access and benefit-sharing”. More information on the CEPA fair is available at the following web page: <https://www.cbd.int/cepa/fair/2018/>.

4. Side event related to ABS

A number of side events related to ABS will be held on the margins of the Conference. A full list of side event is available on the following web page: <https://www.cbd.int/side-events/>. The Secretariat is looking forward to welcoming you at the Conference and counts on your active participation in those events.

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

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD  
Executive Secretary