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Biodiversity and Climate Change

CONVENTION CONVENES THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING

Montreal, 7 October 2007:

The fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing will be held from 8 to 12 October 2007 at the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal. The Working Group is co-chaired by Mr Fernando Casas from Colombia and Mr Tim. Hodges from Canada. The meeting has been convened to continue the elaboration and negotiation of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing based on the mandate entrusted to it by the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Curitiba in March 2006. .

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing (Working Group on ABS) was first established by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its fifth meeting, held in Nairobi in May 2000 to develop guidelines and other approaches to assist Parties and stakeholders with the implementation of the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the Convention.

The Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from their Utilization, developed by the Working Group, were adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting, held in The Hague in 2002

Following the call for action at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, to negotiate an international regime for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, a new mandate was given to the Working Group at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Kuala Lumpur in 2004. The Conference of the Parties mandated the Working Group to elaborate and negotiate an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing with the aim of adopting an instrument/instruments to effectively implement the provisions in Article 15 and Article 8(j) of the Convention and the three objectives of the Convention.

At its eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in Curitiba, in 2006, the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing was requested to continue the elaboration and negotiation of the international regime and instructed to complete its work at the earliest possible time before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in 2010. The Government of Japan has offered to host this important meeting which will also coincide with the celebration of the International Year on Biodiversity in the city of Nagoya .

For further information please visit: <http://www.cbd.int/meetings/wgabs-05/default.shtml>

