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Agenda item 5

Digital sequence information on genetic resources

Recommendation adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on 12 August 2026

7/4. Digital sequence information on genetic resources

The Subsidiary Body on Implementation,

Recalling the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources,

Recalling also decisions [15/9](#) of 19 December 2022 and [16/2](#) of 1 November 2024, in particular the annex to decision [16/2](#), in which the Conference of the Parties:

(a) Decided that the Cali Fund under the Multilateral Mechanism for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources would be administered in line with its decisions (paragraph 23);

(b) Also decided that the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, would operate under its authority and guidance and be accountable to it, and established a steering committee for the Multilateral Mechanism (paragraph 28);

(c) Established the composition of the Steering Committee, with a chair to be designated from among the members of the Committee representing Parties (enclosure IV),

1. *Notes* that the “Standard memorandum of understanding for the Cali Fund for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits arising from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources using Pass-through Fund Management” among participating United Nations entities (United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹) and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office of the United Nations regarding the operational aspects of the Cali Fund for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits arising from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, together with its annexes, was concluded and signed on 25 February 2025, prior to the Conference of the Parties;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate an online discussion on the issue referred to in paragraph 1 above with the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, the United Nations partners and the Steering Committee of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, that will be open to all, and to make the relevant materials and documents available;

3. *Recommends* that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties consider a possible appropriate course of action regarding the memorandum of understanding and its annexes,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

as well as all related governance, administrative and operational documents and arrangements, including those developed or agreed upon by the Steering Committee, including its report, in relation to and in line with the distinctive characteristics of the Cali Fund as a benefit-sharing fund and the governance arrangements, in accordance with decision [16/2](#), while ensuring transparency to the Parties;

4. *Also recommends* that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopt elements of a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decisions [15/9](#) of 19 December 2022, in particular its paragraph 13, and [16/2](#) of 1 November 2024,

[1. *Recognizes* the potential value of exploring proportionate pathways that could complement the sectoral approach established in decision [16/2](#) by addressing potential asymmetries affecting users making limited or initial use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, in particular in developing countries, the remaining portfolios of which comply with applicable national access and benefit-sharing requirements, if applicable, [and without prejudice to obligations arising from existing national access and benefit-sharing frameworks,] and mutually agreed terms, while avoiding unintended barriers to the responsible adoption and use of digital sequence information;]

[1.Alt. *Recognizes* the asymmetries among users, including those making limited or initial use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, and the potential value of exploring proportionate pathways that could complement the sectoral approach established in decision [16/2](#);

[2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to [commission a study][compile relevant information] on potential additional modalities [to explore potential contribution pathways, including][, including a proportionate pathway for entities making limited or initial use of digital sequence information on genetic resources] to enable entities to calculate their contributions to the Cali Fund on the basis of the products or services [in their portfolios developed [directly or indirectly]] using digital sequence information on genetic resources within the scope of the Multilateral Mechanism[, including their potential interaction with national access and benefit-sharing frameworks], and to analyse and evaluate the feasibility, practicality, efficiency and legal and technical challenges of contribution pathways, including [their potential interaction with national access and benefit-sharing frameworks,][their interaction with national access and benefit-sharing frameworks, their implications for the overall contributor base and predictability of contributions and revenue generation for the Cali Fund,] [an assessment of the potential impact of the total level of contributions to the Cali Fund,] [equity implications, and the interests of developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition];]

[2.Alt. *Establishes*, subject to the availability of resources, [an ad hoc open-ended working group on benefit-sharing from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources] to further develop the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, through [options for] a products- and services-based modality providing a proportionate pathway for companies with limited use of digital sequence information, complementary to the sectoral approach, according to the terms of reference contained in annex [X], and to make recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its eighteenth meeting;]

[3. *Decides* to consider, at its [eighteenth][nineteenth] meeting, without prejudging the outcome of the first review of the effectiveness of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, and in the light of the outcomes and recommendations resulting from the first

review of effectiveness of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, the potential additional modalities referred to in paragraph 2;]

4. [*Urges*][*Calls upon*] Parties, and invites other Governments, relevant organizations and stakeholders, including the private sector, to organize participatory activities and partnerships, as appropriate, in order to encourage private sector engagement with and contributions to the Cali Fund and non-monetary benefit-sharing [consistent with decision [16/2](#) and without prejudice to applicable national access and benefit-sharing measures];

5. [*Requests*][*Strongly encourages*] Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations, to support the work of the Steering Committee of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity² acting as the interim Secretariat of the Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, through financial support and [formal and] informal activities, [including capacity-building, technical assistance, awareness-raising and information-sharing,] such as workshops on the operationalization of the Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, and related items [and to support the effective participation in the work of the Committee of members from developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States among them];

[6. *Reaffirms* that the governance, institutional arrangements and operational modalities of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, remain under the authority of the Conference of the Parties, and requests the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to review their consistency with decision [16/2](#) and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties periodically, and to make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties;]

[7. *Decides* that future members of the Steering Committee shall be nominated by the respective regional groups and constituencies;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to facilitate the nomination process related to paragraph 7 above accordingly;]

9. *Invites*, with the aim to make digital sequence information on genetic resources publicly available and accessible in a transparent and accountable manner [, consistent with the sovereign rights of all Parties over the genetic resources and the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities][to all Parties, consistent with the principles of open access to data]:

(a) Indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth among them, [with the support of and, where relevant, in collaboration with, Parties, and, as appropriate, digital sequence information on genetic resources database managers, the scientific community, users of digital sequence information on genetic resources, relevant organizations and initiatives, to support participatory workshops with the aim to develop their self-led educational material][to contribute, in consultation and collaboration with Parties, as appropriate, to the development of educational material under a Party-driven process] for use by database operators, scientific and research institutions, the Secretariat and other stakeholders, as relevant, on the management and governance of data linked with indigenous peoples and local communities, including the women and youth within those communities, and their traditional knowledge, including consideration of and alignment with the principles of findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability (FAIR) and collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility and ethics (CARE), for, inter alia, providing guidance for

² Ibid.

scientific publications on research using digital sequence information on genetic resources[, consistent with national legislation and circumstances];

[(b) [Database managers and users to develop and progressively implement][Parties and other Governments funding, sponsoring and hosting digital sequence information on genetic resources databases to ensure that entities operating such databases and users thereof in their jurisdictions take measures to develop and progressively implement, in accordance with paragraphs 11 and 12 of decision [16/2](#)];

- (i) [Interoperable and] standardized metadata and good practices that support improved accessibility, transparency and accountability in databases hosting digital sequence information on genetic resources, including, as appropriate, [and where available,] provenance [and country of origin] information [and information on the country of origin of the biological material or genetic resources from which the sequence was derived];
- (ii) Declarations relating to lawful submission of digital sequence information, where applicable[, including reference to relevant information or documentation supporting such declarations, in accordance with national legislation];
- (iii) [Standardized] [fields or metadata for submitters to provide information on] [relevant] [rights and] permissions information, including free, prior and informed consent[, in accordance with national circumstances];
- [(iv) Interoperable metadata standards;]
- (v) Alignment with the CARE and FAIR principles and the principles of transparency, responsibility, user focus, sustainability and technology (TRUST), as well as the recommendations set out in section III of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization *Recommendation on Open Science*;]

[(b Alt.1) Organizations hosting databases that make digital sequence information on genetic resources publicly available to share information with the Executive Secretary by the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties concerning their implementation of paragraph 10 of the annex to decision [16/2](#);]

[(b Alt.2) Parties and other Governments funding, sponsoring or hosting sequence databases to share information on the actions that they have taken to make sure that entities operating [such][those] databases [ensure the effective implementation of the Multilateral Mechanism and that users in their jurisdictions take measures to develop and] progressively implement paragraphs 11 and 12 of the annex to decision [16/2](#);]

[(c) The exploration of practical approaches for improving [accountability and] transparency to all Parties regarding the submission and use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, while maintaining open access and taking into account existing database practices [and applicable national legislation and measures];]

[10. *Invites* Parties and relevant organizations and stakeholders in a position to do so to provide capacity-building, technical assistance, technology transfer[, voluntary and mutually agreed terms] and financial support for the work outlined in subparagraphs 9 (a) and (b) above;]

11. *Invites* the various actors referred to in paragraph 9 above to inform the Secretariat of relevant work undertaken and its results;

[12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to ensure that the findings and recommendations arising from the study on tools and models, such as databases, for making digital sequence information on genetic resources publicly available

and accessible in a transparent and accountable manner³ are subject to peer review, allowing Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, database operators and relevant experts to provide comments, and to submit the finalized study and recommendation for review by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting, [before informing future policy development];]

13. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) To collect the information mentioned in paragraph 11 above and disseminate it through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House;

(b) To issue a call for collaboration with other platforms and clearing houses outside the Convention and its Protocols on the dissemination of that information;

[

14. *[Adopts the][Takes note of the proposed]* review methodology contained in the annex to the present decision;

15. *Requests* that the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Steering Committee, in line with the review methodology and subject to the availability of resources:

(a) Develop and disseminate a survey available in all official languages of the United Nations to collect relevant data and information from Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and other relevant stakeholders and organizations, including the scientific community, database managers and the private sector, in order to inform the first review of the effectiveness of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, and the development of surveys for future reviews;

(b) Commission a review report containing: (a) an analysis of data and information submitted pursuant to subparagraph 15 (a) above that is in line with the pillars and governance assessment of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, information from the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁴ and other readily available sources, as relevant; and (b) recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund;

(c) Submit the review report to the Steering Committee to give it the opportunity to share its views and give any recommendations that it may have thereon, and submit the report and the recommendations of the Committee to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;

16. *Invites* the actors concerned to respond to the survey mentioned in subparagraph 15 (a) above;

17. *Requests* that, at a meeting held before the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation review the views and recommendations of the Steering Committee on the review report, if any, and, as relevant, submit a recommendation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting.

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³ [CBD/SBI/7/INF/15](#).

⁴ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

[Annex

Review methodology of the effectiveness of the Multilateral Mechanism for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, including the Cali Fund

I. Conceptual framework of the review methodology

1. For the Multilateral Mechanism for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, including the Cali Fund, to succeed, five enabling conditions (EC1–EC5) must be in place in the ecosystem in which the Mechanism operates. They are treated as structural preconditions: failures in enabling conditions require different policy responses than failures in mechanism design. The five conditions are:

- (a) Industry clarity on contribution conditions (EC1);
- (b) A commercially viable business case for industry and Parties (EC2);
- (c) Legal certainty for contributors and providers (EC3);
- (d) Functional identified or designated receiving entities (EC4);
- (e) Effective governance with sustained political commitment (EC5).

2. The Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, is assessed in the review through six evaluation pillars (P1–P6) and a governance assessment (G1). P1 covers [resource mobilization][monetary contributions] and distribution; P2 covers contribution levels, trigger design, efficiency and administrative costs; P3 covers non-monetary benefits, [including open access to digital sequence information on genetic resources][in particular benefits arising from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources]; P4 cover the Mechanism’s coherence with other mechanisms, including contributions to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁵ and complementarity with national and international access and benefit-sharing frameworks; and P5 covers the rights [of][, open access obligations and research impacts relating to][and obligations in relation to open access of] indigenous peoples and local communities [and the impact of the utilization of digital sequence information derived from genetic resources]. Under G1, the Mechanism’s governance is assessed against [six][seven] indicators: decision-making inclusivity, transparency, management response quality, institutional coherence, fiduciary integrity, [and] governance set-up progress [and improvements in data governance, including consistency with the principles of findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability (FAIR), collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility and ethics (CARE) and transparency, responsibility, user focus, sustainability and technology (TRUST), as well as the recommendations set out in section III of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization *Recommendation on Open Science*].

3. The following four assumptions reflect the design of the Mechanism as established by decisions of the Conference of the Parties. The evaluation works within their constraints.

Assumption 1 – [Decoupling from traceability (decision [15/9](#), para. 5)][Monetary payments are calculated for the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources in accordance with the scope of the Multilateral Mechanism]

4. [The Mechanism does not require proof that specific digital sequence information on genetic resources was used by a specific contributor.] Also, all rights under the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization⁶ and other instruments are preserved (decision [15/9](#), para. 11; decision [16/2](#), para. 27). The

⁵ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3008, No. 30619.

assessment is focused on whether the Mechanism generates intended [monetary] flows and [whether] outcomes at the system level [are consistent with decision [16/2](#)][, and not on whether individual contributions are traceable to specific uses].

Assumption 2 – The sectors contribute to the Multilateral Mechanism because they are reliant on digital sequence information on genetic resources

5. The Mechanism establishes sectors in which it is plausible that economic activity is reliant on the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources. This contribution-plausibility framework is the principal analytical method for Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 findings. The approach for the present review methodology was aligned with that of comparable mechanisms: the three-level assessment structure and evaluability-update-first approach from the Green Climate Fund; the financial reporting and tiered data-access model from the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol; and the equity and non-monetary benefit assessment from the Benefit-sharing Fund of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The rating scale and compliance-based logic of the Green Climate Fund project logframes are incompatible with the voluntary design of the Cali Fund, and so only the three-level assessment structure (performance, design and operation) and the evaluability-update-first approach were deemed applicable to the present methodology. The Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction⁷ and the WHO Pandemic Agreement, in particular article 12, on pathogen access and benefit-sharing system, are relevant as boundary instruments for the part of Pillar 4 on coherence with other international instruments and contribution stacking risk, but currently do not have applicable evaluation methodologies.

Assumption 3 – Since the enabling conditions enumerated in paragraph 1 are structural preconditions and not mechanism failures, even a well-designed mechanism will underperform if enabling conditions are absent

6. Each condition represents a distinct failure mode requiring a different policy response, and the number of Parties implementing paragraph 13⁸ of the annex to decision [16/2](#) measured by the time of the review by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth meeting [is][, as well as actions taken by database managers to promote accountability and transparency in making digital sequence information on genetic resources publicly accessible and available are] the most important leading signal[s] for the first review. The review therefore must first establish which enabling conditions were in place when the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, operated. If enabling conditions fall short, low performance will not signal a design flaw requiring the Conference of the Parties to change the Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, but rather a precondition failure or shortcoming requiring diplomatic, legal or capacity-building responses. The evaluability update must therefore include an enabling-condition diagnostic before any pillar findings are presented. The Secretariat should develop:

- (a) A survey to gather data for EC1 and EC2 on industry clarity on contribution conditions and on a commercially viable business case for both industry and Parties, respectively;
- (b) A tracker tool for the countries that put in place administrative, policy or legislative measures to incentivize users' contributions;
- [(c) A tracker tool for actions taken by countries, not just to incentivize users' contributions, but also to ensure that digital sequence information on genetic resources to which the databases facilitate access is compliant with national laws of provider countries;]

⁷ A/CONF.232/2023/4.

⁸ “13. Parties and non-Parties are invited to take administrative, policy or legislative measures, consistent with national legislation, to incentivize users in their jurisdiction to contribute to the global fund in line with the modalities of the multilateral mechanism.”

(d) [A protocol to address the risk of contribution stacking][An assessment of whether there are any risks of stacking of obligations];

(e) An assessment for EC4 on the designation and readiness of institutions to receive contributions for indigenous peoples and local communities[, including whether operational arrangements enable access through the full range of funding pathways, including direct access];

[(f) A tracker tool for the actions taken by database managers to promote EC6;]

(g) Qualitative protocols for EC5 on effective governance with sustained political commitment.

Assumption 4 – The methodology is modular in order to respond to a phased operationalization

7. The methodology is adopted before the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, is fully operational. The allocation formula, contribution thresholds, database interface measures and governance structures are still being finalized, some of which will be presented by the Steering Committee to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting. The methodology is therefore modular: elements for which evaluability depends on a finalized design feature are classified as modality-contingent and flagged as “not yet evaluable”.

8. [Two][Three] limitations are assumed in the present methodology, given that they cannot be remedied by improved data collection:

(a) Attribution[: outcomes cannot be attributed to specific digital sequence information on genetic resources, contributors or countries of origin (decision [15/9](#), para. 5), and the review cannot satisfy demands for bilateral origin-benefit linkages][: information on attribution of specific digital sequence information on genetic resources is limited to the declarations by the contributors, and verification of the same is not possible until improvements are made to the accountability and transparency associated with databases and other tools used to make digital sequence information on genetic resources publicly accessible];

[(b) Political questions: whether the trigger, thresholds or allocation formula are fair in an absolute sense is a political question for the Parties. The review provides an assessment of only performance against the criteria in paragraph 9 of decision [15/9](#);]

(c) Party requests: The allocation formula, thresholds and rates of contribution are set through separate processes decided by the Parties. The review provides an assessment of only whether adopted rates are generating the intended flows and whether thresholds appear to be a barrier to uptake (EC2).

II. Review framework

9. Table 1 contains elements that are either fully or conditionally evaluable at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Elements marked † are conditional on specific decisions reached or actions taken at, or immediately following, the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, such as the adoption of the allocation formula and the manual of operations, and the launch of a survey or tracker. Table 2 contains elements that are not evaluable at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties regardless of the outcomes of the seventeenth meeting, primarily because operational conditions or external instruments are not in place.

Table 1

Consolidated review framework: elements fully or conditionally evaluable at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

<i>Pillar/element</i>	<i>Data status</i>	<i>Data source</i>	<i>Evaluability</i>
P1 – Monetary contribution and distribution [and governance]			
Contributions are received from the users of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including those identified by the Parties (decision 16/2 , enclosure I)	Existing (MPTFO)	MPTFO financial report ¹ [cost and administrative burden where sufficient data are available]	Fully evaluable; feeds KMGBF Target 13 indicators
Total contributions received ([volume][amount], number, sector[, including vis-à-vis indicative rates in decision 16/2])			
Distribution by region and recipient type †	Existing (MPTFO) – formula modality-contingent	MPTFO allocation data	Basic distributional data evaluable now; full evaluation is conditional on adoption of the allocation formula at COP-17 [feeds KMGBF Target 13 indicators]
Disbursement rate	Existing (MPTFO)	MPTFO financial report	Fully evaluable
Allocation process compliance (including transparency, accountability and gender-responsiveness)	Existing (Fund Secretariat)	Secretariat narrative report ¹	Fully evaluable
Governance set-up progress – G1.vi (leading element) (see G1 below) †	Existing (Fund Secretariat)	Cali Fund annual report; ¹ report of the Steering Committee to the Conference of the Parties; Steering Committee meeting minutes; manual of operations (once adopted)	Fully evaluable; full evaluation of G1.vi is conditional on adoption of the manual of operations at COP-17

¹ MPTFO financial report + Fund Secretariat narrative report = Cali Fund annual report.

<i>Pillar/element</i>	<i>Data status</i>	<i>Data source</i>	<i>Evaluability</i>
P2 – [Contribution levels], trigger design, efficiency and costs			
EC1 – contributor awareness, understanding [and clarity] [and] operational effectiveness of contribution conditions † [including the assessment of the effectiveness and suitability of the trigger for monetary contribution as outlined in decision 16/2]	To develop (survey)	Contributor or stakeholder survey; including national reporting on Target 13; [Distinguish between entities that were unaware, that were aware but found conditions uncertain, and that were aware but did not contribute]	Evaluable in survey launched soon after COP-17, complemented by data on actual contributions and contribution patterns; interim results possible before COP-18 Conditional on Secretariat launching survey after COP-17
EC2 – business-case perception of contribution thresholds†	To develop (survey)	Contributor or stakeholder survey, [competent national authority or national focal point for CBD, as appropriate,] complemented by data on entities meeting the threshold, contributing entities and contributions received	Evaluable if survey launched soon after COP-17; interim results possible before COP-18 Conditional on Secretariat launching survey after COP-17, as well as potential effect of COP-17 decision on contribution threshold for participation expectation and contribution level
EC3 – [value proposition and incentive for provider and user, including recognition of certificate]			
P3 – Non-monetary benefits [arising from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources]			
(whole row bracketed) [Open] access to digital sequence information on genetic resources, [in alignment with the CARE and FAIR principles, as well as the recommendations set out in section III of the UNESCO <i>Recommendation on Open Science</i>]	Existing (databases)	Database operator voluntary reports	Fully evaluable if reports made available

<i>Pillar/element</i>	<i>Data status</i>	<i>Data source</i>	<i>Evaluability</i>
Capacity-building (could be considered for table 2)		[Report of the technical centres under the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building and development of CBD]	
Technology transfer			
P4 – Mechanism’s coherence with other mechanisms, including contributions to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and complementarity with national and international access and benefit-sharing frameworks			
EC3 (a) – national incentivization measures (ABS discharge) †	To develop (Party notification)	Party notification on national ABS measures, including digital sequence information on genetic resources; Secretariat tracker (see para. 6)	Evaluable if tracker is launched and Party notification issued immediately after COP-17 Conditional on Secretariat launching tracker and COP-17 authorizing Party notification
[[National measures] [Progress, measures or actions (decision 16/2 , annex, para. 10)] of Parties that fund, sponsor or host databases within national jurisdictions, including on accountability and transparency, in alignment with decision 15/9 and paragraph 11 of the annex to decision 16/2]			
Impact on research and innovation (could be considered for table 2)		Report from databases	
EC3 (c) – provider confidence (national ABS alignment)	To develop (assessment)	Party national reports and PMRR; Party notification	Partially evaluable through Party notification only; results considered interim, given early stage of the Mechanism Monitor in subsequent cycles, including on the perception of a voluntary extension of the mechanism
Coherence with national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national	Existing (CBD Secretariat)	PMRR and Secretariat	Partially evaluable at COP-18 (interim results only, given the early stage of the Mechanism)

<i>Pillar/element</i>	<i>Data status</i>	<i>Data source</i>	<i>Evaluability</i>
digital sequence information and ABS measures			Monitor in subsequent cycles
P5 – Rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, [open access and research impacts] [and the impact of utilization of digital sequence information on genetic resources on them]			
<i>All elements</i>	—	—	<i>No P5 elements evaluable at COP-18 All P5 elements are shown in table 2</i>
G1 – Governance assessment			
G1.i – Decision-making inclusivity †	Interim (Secretariat)	SC meeting minutes; manual of operations (once adopted)	Fully evaluable; manual of operations (if adopted at COP-17) adds allocation formula governance
G1.ii – Transparency and timeliness of documentation	Interim (Secretariat)	Secretariat periodic report, [including timely availability of decisions, meeting documents and relevant financial documents]	Fully evaluable
G1.iii – Quality of management response †	Existing (SC)	SC management response; manual of operations (once adopted)	Fully evaluable from COP-18; manual of operations (if adopted at COP-17) adds allocation governance
G1.iv – Institutional coherence (among SC, Fund Secretariat and MPTFO)	Existing (Fund Secretariat)	Secretariat periodic report [, including clarity of mandates, roles and responsibilities of SC and MPTFO]	Fully evaluable
G1.v – Fiduciary and financial integrity	Existing (MPTFO)	MPTFO annual report; MPTFO processes	Fully evaluable
G1.vi – Governance [effectiveness and accountability][set-up progress] [(most important leading element)] †	Existing (Secretariat)	SC meeting minutes; Cali Fund annual reports;	Fully evaluable; if the manual of operations is adopted at COP-17, governance set-up evaluable in full

<i>Pillar/element</i>	<i>Data status</i>	<i>Data source</i>	<i>Evaluability</i>
		manual of operations (once adopted)	
EC1–EC5 – Enabling-condition diagnostic (cross-cutting summary)			
EC1 – Industry clarity (see P2 above)	To develop (survey)	Contributor or stakeholder survey	See P2 above †
EC2 – Business case fit for both users and providers (see P2 above)	To develop (survey)	Contributor or stakeholder survey	See P2 above †
EC3 – Legal certainty (see P4 above and table 2)	See P4 in table 2	See P4 in table 2	EC3(a) and (c) see P4 above; EC3(b) see table 2
EC4 – Institutional readiness of indigenous peoples and local communities (see table 2)	To develop (assessment)	Consultation of indigenous peoples and local communities; Party reports	See table 2
EC5 – Governance quality (see G1 above)	Existing (qualitative)	Secretariat; SC meeting minutes	See G1 above
<i>Colour coding:</i> green = existing data available; amber = data to be developed, instrument not yet in place or evaluation conditional on a COP-17 decision; grey = cross-reference rows. <i>Abbreviations:</i> ABS, access and benefit-sharing; CARE, collective benefit, authority to control, responsibility and ethics; CBD, Convention on Biological Diversity; COP, Conference of the Parties; EC, enabling condition; FAIR, findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable; G, governance assessment; KMGBF, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; MPTFO, Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office; P, pillar; PMRR, planning, monitoring, reporting and review; SC, Steering Committee; UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.			

Table 2

Consolidated review framework: elements not yet evaluable at the eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

<i>Pillar/element</i>	<i>Data status</i>	<i>Data source</i>	<i>Evaluability</i>
P2 – Contribution levels, trigger design, efficiency and costs			
Transaction costs and administrative burden	To develop (study)	SC-commissioned study	Evaluable at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties; requires dedicated study

<i>Pillar/element</i>	<i>Data status</i>	<i>Data source</i>	<i>Evaluability</i>
P3 – Non-monetary benefits			
Non-monetary benefit-sharing assessment, as aligned with the Global Biodiversity Fund monitoring framework methodology for indicator C.2 ² Non-monetary benefits arising from applicable internationally agreed ABS instruments	To develop (reporting)	Database operator reports in table 1; contributor or stakeholder survey	Partially evaluable; typology and survey to be developed; with particular consideration of non-monetary benefits for indigenous peoples and local communities fully evaluable at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties; [extent includes the total amount and where it goes]
P4 – Mechanism’s coherence with other mechanisms, including contributions to the KMGBF and complementarity with national and international ABS frameworks			
Biodiversity impact of funded activities	To develop	Secretariat; Party reports	Not yet evaluable; qualitative contribution assessment possible at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
Contribution to KMGBF Goal C and Target 13 binary indicator	Not yet evaluable	KMGBF monitoring report and PMRR	Not yet evaluable: no DSI-specific information in KMGBF Goal C or Target 13 at the moment; PMRR does not contain allocation formula data Evaluable at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Alignment with PMRR reporting cycles	Not yet evaluable	PMRR or Secretariat	Not yet evaluable: PMRR does not yet contain allocation formula data Evaluable at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties
EC3 (b) – [[contribution][obligation]-stacking risk][interactions and synergies between the operations of the Multilateral Mechanism and other multilateral access and benefit-sharing instruments] (ITPGRFA, BBNJ, WHO PABS)	To develop (protocol)	Secretariat stacking risk protocol	Not yet evaluable: decisions have not yet been made in relation to other international instruments on whether and how to deal with the sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources within the scope of the instruments Evaluable at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties

² www.gbf-indicators.org/metadata/headline/C-2

<i>Pillar/element</i>	<i>Data status</i>	<i>Data source</i>	<i>Evaluability</i>
P5 – Indigenous peoples and local communities’ rights, open access and research impacts			
EC4 – Institutional readiness of indigenous peoples and local communities and entity designation (<i>could be considered for table 1</i>)	To develop (assessment)	Consultation of indigenous peoples and local communities; Party reports	[Partially][Not yet] evaluable: Cali Fund operations not fully started Evaluable at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Benefits received by indigenous peoples and local communities and their identified or designated entities	Existing or to develop	MPTFO allocation data; consultation of indigenous peoples and local communities	Partially evaluable for factor (j) of enclosure VI and paragraph 21 of the annex to decision 16/2 , through survey or Party notification; results considered interim Monitor in subsequent cycles.
Non-hindrance of research and innovation, including related to new technologies	To develop (study)	SC study; research community consultation	Not yet evaluable: Cali Fund operations not fully started Evaluable at a future meeting of the Conference of the Parties
<i>Abbreviations:</i> ABS, access and benefit-sharing; BBNJ, Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction; COP, Conference of the Parties; DSI, digital sequence information; EC, enabling condition; ITPGRFA, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; KMGBF, Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; MPTFO, Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office; PMRR, planning, monitoring, reporting and review; Steering Committee; WHO PABS, World Health Organization Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing System.			

III. Methodological approach, consultation and quality assurance

10. The Steering Committee will oversee the review. Data for the review are classified under three confidentiality tiers (public, restricted and sensitive) and collected through the following four reporting data sources, as a minimum:

- (a) Annual financial report of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office;
- (b) Annual narrative report of the Fund Secretariat;
- (c) Reporting by Parties on national implementation through a notification;
- (d) Voluntary reporting by database and tool managers on digital sequence information on genetic resources reports, including on alignment with FAIR and CARE principles.

11. In addition, stakeholder consultations, including a structured questionnaire for Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, database operators and contributors, as well as targeted consultations with indigenous peoples and local communities, will generate analytically usable evidence. Draft findings should be circulated [to stakeholders] for comment, and all substantive comments should be recorded.

A. Independence and quality assurance

12. Analytical work is conducted by functionally independent evaluators free from conflicts of interest with the Steering Committee, Secretariat of the Multilateral Mechanism, the Secretariat of the Convention and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office.

13. In addition, draft findings are subject to peer review.

B. Structure of the report

14. The review report should comprise five sections:

- (a) Executive summary;
- (b) Evaluability update;
- (c) Findings by category of pillar and G1, each presented as:
 - (i) Evidence;
 - (ii) Finding;
 - (iii) Conclusion;
 - (iv) Recommendation;
- (d) Cross-cutting findings;
- (e) Proposed adjustments (major or minor).

15. In addition, the report should contain four annexes for the following: data tables; consultation synthesis; management response; and peer review record.

C. Steering Committee response to the assessment

16. The Steering Committee responds to each recommendation set out in the report through the management response. It accepts, accepts with modifications or declines, with reasons, each recommendation. For every accepted recommendation, [an][a proposed] action plan is provided in which the action, responsible body, timeline and resource implications are specified. Recommendations for major revisions to the Multilateral Mechanism must be brought to the Conference of the Parties for endorsement. A report on the implementation status of the action plans should be presented before the subsequent review cycle.

D. Follow-up to the report

17. Given that the implementation status of the action plan from the previous review should be presented before the subsequent review cycle, recommendations should be recorded either as completed on time, completed late, partially completed or not yet commenced, and be accompanied by an explanation for any delay and a revised timeline, where appropriate. If an action in the plan is not completed and an adequate explanation is not provided, it should be treated as an implementation failure and should be reported in the cross-cutting findings section of the next review report under G1.iii (quality of management response).

18. The management response is a living document: the Steering Committee may update it between cycles to reflect changing circumstances but must report those changes to the Conference of the Parties, along with the associated reasons and consequences.

III. Governance, roles and responsibilities

19. The Conference of the Parties, [once a methodology is adopted,] will review [its][the final] report. The Steering Committee, as the governing body of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the Cali Fund, should [have oversight of][drive] the methodology development and data collection and produce the final report. Subsequently, the Steering Committee should prepare a proposed management response. It should be noted that the Committee is itself subject to a governance assessment under G1, which is managed in accordance with section II.A above, on independence and quality assurance.

20. The [Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, currently acting as the interim] Fund Secretariat[,] [drives][supports] the methodology development, prepares submissions, coordinates data collection and compiles the resulting data.

21. The two mandates of the Conference of the Parties and its Secretariat, and of the Steering Committee and its interim Secretariat are distinct, even though some staff might serve both entities. The circularity risk – that the Secretariat both prepares data and assists in interpreting it – is managed through the independence provisions provided in section II.A above. Evaluators must independently verify data supplied by the Secretariat against primary sources, where possible. Any data quality concerns that are raised must be documented in the peer review record (as noted in para. 11 above).

22. The Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office will provide financial records through its public reporting obligations, contribution logs, disbursement data, audit reports and certified financial statements.

23. Parties will submit data as part of the planning, monitoring, reporting and review of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Parties will also [be invited to] submit data on administrative, policy or legislative measures and incentivization of users in their jurisdictions. Last, Parties will review draft findings as part of the review process.

24. Indigenous peoples and local communities will be consulted on CARE-compliant data handling, provide evidence on benefits received and review passages with a “sensitive” confidentiality classification.

25. Database operators [should][will be invited to] supply interface measure reports, access statistics and quality assessments of annual provenance data.

26. Last, the private sector contributors [should][will be invited to] provide survey responses and inputs during consultation.

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