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## **New Report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources on its second meeting and next COP 16 in Cali, Colombia**

**28 September 2024**

The recent 2nd Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources celebrated in Montreal, Canada, 12–16 August 2024 adopted the 2024 “Report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources on its second meeting” (CBD/WGDSI/2/3 16 August 2024). In this Report was adopted the “Recommendation 2/1 on the further development of the multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing from the use of DSI on genetic resources, including a global fund”. The draft decision contained in the Recommendation 2/1 will be submitted to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity for consideration at its sixteenth meeting (hereinafter COP 16).

The Recommendation 2/1 recommends that COP 16, to adopt a decision along the following lines: “Recognizing the lack of accountability, transparency and inclusive governance in existing public databases and data-sharing practices that do not align with international instruments on access and benefit-sharing, which limits the fair and equitable benefit distribution from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, and acknowledging that insufficient national capacity in developing countries further constrain their ability to benefit fairly and equitably from those resources” and the adoption of “the modalities for operationalizing the multilateral mechanism for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including a global fund” and, moreover, “(r)equests the Executive Secretary to establish a database for digital sequence information on genetic resources under the clearing-house mechanism, to facilitate the fair and equitable sharing of benefits”.

As was reported in the recent press release of the CBD regarding this Recommendation 2/1: “The negotiations held in Montreal this week narrowed down a wide spectrum of technical and policy options pertaining to crucial operational modalities of the Multilateral Mechanism, including the associated global fund: who will pay for using digital sequence information on genetic resources, how much they will pay, what would trigger such payments, how the collected payments will be disbursed and how the entire set-up would be managed and governed”. Moreover, “In Montreal, negotiators deliberated on a list of sectors and subsectors highly dependent on the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources that the operational modalities of the multilateral mechanism and the associated fund would apply to. These include pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, plant and animal breeding and agricultural biotechnology, industrial biotechnology, laboratory equipment associated with the sequencing and use of digital sequence information on genetic resources and information, scientific and technical services related to digital sequence information on genetic resources”.

Finally, as was informed in the press release “(a)t COP 16 in Cali, the Parties are expected to fine-tune agreement on pending issues, including aspects pertaining to data governance” among other relevant aspects in the configuration of the new multilateral system focused on DSI and its regulation. Next COP 16 under the title “Paz con la naturaleza” will be celebrated next month, October 21 to November 1, in Cali, Colombia.





The 2024 “Report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources on its second meeting” (CBD/WGDSI/2/3 16 August 2024) can be consulted in the following link (last access: 28.9.2024):

<https://www.cbd.int/notifications/2024-075>

The CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, Press release 16 august 2024, “Edging closer to operationalizing an agreement on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources In Montreal, negotiators advance text determining how the groundbreaking Multilateral Mechanism will work in practice”, can be consulted in the following link (last access: 28.9.2024):

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2024/pr-2024-08-16-dsi-en.pdf>

The information on the next COP 16 Colombia “COP 16 Paz con la naturaleza”, can be consulted in the following link (last access: 28.9.2024):

<https://www.cop16colombia.com/es/>

