

Ref.: SCBD/SEL/OJ/SG/69999

21 December 2009

NOTIFICATION

Access and Benefit-sharing: Friends of the Co-Chairs Meeting, 26-29 January 2010, Montreal, Canada

Dear Madam/Sir,

During the eighth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, the Co-Chairs of the Working Group, Mr. Fernando Casas and Timothy Hodges, outlined the consultations to be held during the inter-sessional period before the ninth meeting of the Working Group in March 2010. The outline of inter-sessional work, consisting in essence of two informal meetings, is reported in paragraphs 116 to 132 of the report of the meeting (UNEP/CBD/WG-ABS/8/8)¹.

The first meeting proposed by the Co-Chairs is the meeting of the Friends of the Co-Chairs, which is intended to identify possible solutions on key issues in the negotiation of the International Regime. The Friends of the Co-Chairs will be composed of representatives of Parties; one representative each from the Presidency of the ninth and tenth meetings of the Conference of the Parties; and two representatives each from indigenous and local communities, civil society, industry and the research community. All participants have been selected by the Co-Chairs.

I am pleased to inform you that the meeting of the Friends of the Co-Chairs will be held in Montreal, Canada, from 26-29 January 2010. The meeting is made possible by a generous contribution from the Government of Canada.

Please find attached the list of participants who have been invited by the Co-Chairs of the Working Group to attend the meeting. The Secretariat will finance the participation of representatives from developing country Parties in the meeting. Details regarding the venue and logistics will be communicated directly to the participants.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

¹ Available on the Secretariat website at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=ABSWG-08>

To: CBD National Focal Points and ABS Focal Points

**List of selected participants for the Friends of the Co-Chairs meeting, 26-29 January 2010,
Montreal, Canada**

| Participants | Region/Organization |
|---|---|
| Parties | |
| Mr. Sem Shikongo | Africa (Namibia) |
| Mr. Ossama El-Tayeb | Africa (Egypt) |
| Mr. David Hafashimana | Africa (Uganda) |
| Mr. Jonathan Davies | Africa (Liberia) |
| | |
| Ms. Sujata Arora | Asia and Pacific (India) |
| Ms. Tania Temata | Asia and Pacific (Cook Islands) |
| Mr. Gurdial Singh | Asia and Pacific (Malaysia) |
| Mr. Dayuan Xue | Asia and Pacific (China) |
| Mr. Elpidio Ven Peria | Asia and Pacific (Philippines) |
| | |
| Ms. Szenana Prokic | CEE (Serbia) |
| | |
| Mr. Gustavo Pacheco | GRULAC (Brazil) |
| Ms. Monica Rosell | GRULAC (Peru) |
| Mr. Ricardo Torres | GRULAC (Colombia) |
| Mr. Damaso Luna | GRULAC (Mexico) |
| | |
| | |
| Ms. Birthe Ivars | WEOG (Norway) |
| Mr. Ben Phillips | WEOG (Australia) |
| Mr. Desmond Mahon | WEOG (Canada) |
| Mr. Matthias Buck | WEOG (European Commission) |
| Mr. Alejandro Lago | WEOG (Spain) |
| | |
| Indigenous and Local Communities | |
| Mr. Merle Alexander | Dena Kayeh Institute |
| Ms. Jocelyn (Joji) Carino | Tebtebba Foundation |
| | |
| Industry | |
| | |
| Ms. Anke van den Hurk | International Seed federation |
| Mr. Jon Santamauro | BIO/PhRMA |
| | |
| Public Research | |
| Mr. Christoph Hauser | Natural History Museum, Germany |
| Ms. Maria Jose Sampaio | Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation |
| | |
| COP Presidents | |
| Mr. Jochen Flasbarth | Representative of COP-9 Presidency |
| Mr. Masayoshi Mizuno | Representative of COP-10 Presidency |
| | |
| Civil Society | |
| Mr. Hartmut Meyer | Church Development Service |
| Ms. Yoke Ling Chee | Third World Network |