

## information note

### UNEP Plans to Launch a Web -based Knowledge Hub on ABS

UNEP Division for Environmental Law and Conventions (DELCO) is the focal division within UNEP focusing on issues of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) . In partnership with other Divisions, DELCO provides strategic , technical , political and financial support to move forward the discussions on further developing and negotiating the international Regime on ABS under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) . UNEP has now finalized its strategy on ABS in consultation with relevant stakeholders . One of the key areas of focus of UNEP's ABS strategy is the capacity building and training on issues of ABS at global, regional and national levels.

#### 1 Background and Purpose of the Hub

As a part of UNEP's continued support to the current negotiation process on developing the international regime and building capacities of stakeholders , UNEP has established a web - based platform to facilitate better exchange of expertise on various areas of ABS . This platform, hosted by UNEP, is expected to function as the information and experience sharing hub with close cooperation with people who have relevant experience on ABS and those who seek to benefit from such experience. This web based platform is comprised of groups of 5 - 10 experts on various issues relevant to ABS who have volunteered their time to interact, on -line, with relevant stakeholders clarifying their doubts, answering questions, reviewing issues, encouraging sharing of experience across regions, provide guidance for stakeholders to better participate in the ongoing negotiation process, provide support to the ABS Co -chairs and the Secretariat to CBD, as necessary.

UNEP will coordinate this platform in a manner that can help minimize

the transaction time involved in such exchanges besides collating all relevant information exchanged into a compendium for future use by all stakeholders. In consultation with those who participate in the exchange , UNEP will also analyse and use the information for future activities related to further discussions on ABS under the CBD as well as other fora .

The experts who volunteer their time to be a part of this global network of ABS experts form the core of UNEP 's ongoing efforts in strengthening its technical network on issues relevant to ABS for better implementation of the international regime on ABS , once adopted by the Parties , besides providing guidance to UNEP 's Medium Term Strategy components between 2010- 2011 on issues of access , resources rights , equity and benefit sharing which is now a part of UNEP 's Programme of Work .

UNEP welcomes inputs and expressions of interest on this Knowledge Hub. If you are keen to participate in this initiative, kindly get in touch soon.

#### Contact Information

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