

**Comments of the Private Sector on Capacity-Building in Access and Benefit Sharing as  
Related to Genetic Resources**

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on behalf of  
The International Chamber of Commerce**

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am speaking on behalf of the Task Force on Access & Benefit Sharing of the International Chamber of Commerce, which is coordinating industry input into the various forums dealing with Access & Benefit Sharing. We are pleased to be included in this session and anticipate that it will prove to be a significant contribution to the successful implementation of the Bonn Guidelines.

It is the view of the private sector that – in this arena of access and benefit sharing relating to genetic resources – one of the fundamental capacity building needs is for governments, local and indigenous communities, and local centers of scientific expertise, to understand the processes through which the potential economic value of these genetic resources comes to be understood and through which value is added in the use of these resources.

That process includes the role of bio-prospecting in commercial and non-commercial endeavors; cost, screening and development processes and timelines; and commercial aspects related to any discoveries of new uses of products that build on these resources. Understanding the processes involved in evaluating and applying genetic resources in useful ways is the key to building within a country or a local community the capacity to play a role in responsible use of genetic resources. It is also necessary in enabling local centers of scientific excellence to apply that expertise in ways that yield viable beneficial use.

In the end, responsible use of genetic resources requires systems that will 1) enable responsible access to genetic resources; 2) encourage sustainable approaches to evaluation of those resources and their application to beneficial use; and 3) ensure that the rights-holders recognized by the country providing access receive an equitable share of benefits derived from that use.

Products utilizing these resources, enhanced through biotechnology, can benefit all countries; but the development of such beneficial uses increasingly depends upon orderly access and benefit sharing arrangements that anticipate and facilitate the processes needed to realize those benefits.

The private sector has made itself available to participate in many capacity building forums and initiatives sponsored by governments, intergovernmental organizations, and stakeholder groups over the years. We are hopeful that this CBD initiative can build on these and help to enable both responsible use of genetic resources and equitable sharing of benefits derived from them. We look forward to continuing our role in that process.