



**International Chamber of Commerce**

*The world business organization*

**ICC intervention on behalf of the business delegation on technology transfer, 20 May 2008  
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- ICC Members agree with reported conclusions of the Experts Group on Technology Transfer, that enabling environments for Technology Transfer will be critical to successful implementation of any Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) International Regime (IR) and the broader objectives of the CBD.
- The ICC makes reference to the paper provided by the ICC on Technology Transfer for the Experts Group, and included in the Report of the Experts Group.
- Unfortunately, Annex III (Annex of UNEP/CBD/COP/9/18) provides little or inadequate recognition of the three accepted core elements central to establishment and maintenance of an enabling environment for technology transfer.
- These are:
  - The important role of effective patent protection, in the context of broader intellectual property protection (IPP), to foster an enabling environment for technology transfer;
  - The core role played by private sector actors in successful tech transfer systems; and,
  - The importance of sustained and consistent support for science and science education by CBD Members and the donor community.
- While public-sector research and other institutions play an important role in technology transfer, the private sector is the primary disseminator of new technologies and/or related management systems needed to create social and economic benefits. Every year, thousands of successful commercial transactions by small, medium and large enterprises offer lessons for success, replication and for scaling up of environmentally sustainable technologies.
- In particular, the success of technology transfer policies in North America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific regions point to the importance

of following successful models already in practice, to reduce- not increase - administrative and bureaucratic processes relating to technology transfer, and to focus on the three core elements highlighted in the ICC's paper on technology transfer.

- Public-private sector partnerships predicated on sharing of good practice and technologies, and stimulating investments in developing countries, should also be pursued. The challenge is to encourage more such transactions in global markets of technologies and processes that can contribute to the objectives of the CBD.
- We remain concerned, then, by renewed proposals for a complex, top-down Biodiversity Technology Initiative, as well as numerous other suggested work program elements that would require additional (unidentified) sources of funding and would create formal and possibly bureaucratic state mechanisms to serve as clearinghouses, in coordination with CBD Focal Points or otherwise. Similarly, there may be over-focus on so-called "hard technologies," i.e. plant and equipment, as opposed to the more important "soft technologies," or doing business methods critical to sustainable economic development.
- ICC Members strongly support CBD recommendations for workshops, technology transfer training programs, and other fora to promote dissemination of best practices that would contribute to an enabling environment for technology transfer.
- Given that ICC members and industry more broadly, play a unique role as the primary driver of technology transfer in most, if not all, CBD Member States, it is mutually beneficial to include the private sector in policy development in this very important area, and we would look forward to participating in these initiatives.