



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Final Day Media Update (Fri., 16 August): UN Negotiations on Benefit Sharing from Uses of Digital Sequence Information, Reminder / Confirmed Time 2 PM EDT

Equitably sharing valuable benefits from digital sequence information — the digital versions of plant, animal, and microorganism DNA: crucial week of UN negotiations concludes

Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) this week [have been negotiating](#) how to operationalise a multilateral mechanism they established in 2022 to fairly and equitably share vast financial and other benefits produced by uses of high-tech, digital versions of plant, animal, and microorganism DNA (Digital Sequence Information: DSI).

Goal of the mechanism and fund, part of the historic Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) agreement of 2022: To benefit nature and its custodians, including indigenous peoples and local communities

Concluding news conference: Friday, 16 August, 2 pm US Eastern Daylight Time

Speakers:

Mphatso Kalemba of Malawi and William Lockhart of the United Kingdom, Co-Chairs of the Committee of the Whole of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group within which the negotiations have been unfolding.

Astrid Schomaker, CBD Executive Secretary

David Cooper, Deputy Executive Secretary

Taukondjo Shikongo, Senior Programme Management Officer

Journalists are asked to pre-register here: <https://bit.ly/3yMAb0H>. Please note: Only questions from registered journalists will be accepted. A recording / transcript will be available later at

<https://www.youtube.com/@cbd-live9013>

Related: On Wednesday 21 August, CBD Executive Secretary Schomaker and Susana Muhamad, Minister of environment and sustainable development of Colombia, will brief media on their vision for COP16, its goals and agenda, at the end of multi-day talks in Montreal. To express interest in joining, please email franca.damico@un.org

Montreal — Marking a potentially pivotal moment, over 300 delegates and negotiators convened in Montreal from 12 to 16 August 2024 to advance a 2022 global agreement to share fairly and equitably the multi-trillion-dollar annual revenues and other benefits derived from uses of Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on genetic resources, including the DNA of plants, animals, and microorganisms.

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Benefit-sharing from the Use of DSI on Genetic Resources, established by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity's 196 Parties, has been working through options for operationalizing the multilateral mechanism, including a global fund. The mechanism and fund were adopted at CBD's COP 15 in 2022 as part of the historic Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)—a master plan guiding biodiversity actions worldwide through 2030.

If its operationalization is adopted at COP16 (Cali, Colombia, 21 October -1 November 2024), the mechanism is expected to mobilize new additional funding for biodiversity conservation worldwide and support the CBD's three overarching objectives: conserving biological diversity, sustainably using its components, and fairly and equitably sharing benefits from uses of genetic resources.

Sectors that rely on DSI, including pharmaceuticals, chemicals, cosmetics, and agriculture, stand to gain from clearer guidelines on benefit-sharing, while indigenous peoples and local communities, as custodians of biodiversity, stand to benefit from the fund. The talks in Montreal will address critical operational details: who pays, how much, under what conditions, and how to ensure transparency and inclusivity in decision-making.

Said Astrid Schomaker, Executive Secretary of the CBD: “The multilateral mechanism is a game-changer. It is expected to provide a multilateral solution and policy guidance on benefit-sharing from the use of DSI on genetic resources, address the crucial aspects of equity, fairness and social justice, bolster capacity-building, development and technology transfer, and mobilize new streams of biodiversity finance.” The multilateral mechanism could be a signature outcome of the forthcoming COP 16 in Cali, Colombia, she added.

Like the historic KMGBF adopted in 2022, "a breakthrough on the DSI multilateral mechanism would signal that environmental multilateralism can deliver for people and nature," Ms. Schomaker said.

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WGDSI-2 meeting documents, other resources: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/wgdsi-2>

COP 16 meeting documents: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/COP-16>

In Cali, Parties to the CBD will take stock of progress towards the goals and 23 ambitious targets for 2030 agreed to in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Resource mobilisation and technical and scientific cooperation will be central to the negotiations.

Financial ambitions set out in the KMGBF include investing US\$ 200 billion a year from all sources, and reforming US\$ 500 billion in government subsidies that undermine biodiversity.

The UN Biodiversity Conference in Cali is comprised of:

- the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 16)
- the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
- the 5th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing.

See also: “On the road to COP 16 in Cali: three priority areas for action”:

<https://bit.ly/4faX3aN>

About the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD): <https://www.cbd.int/convention/guide/>
