

WIPO



WIPO/GRTKF/IC/2/11
ORIGINAL: English
DATE: December 3, 2001

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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE

Second Session
Geneva, December 10 to 14, 2001

REPORT OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON ACCESS AND
BENEFIT-SHARING OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Document submitted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

1. In a letter dated November 20, 2001, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) submitted to the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) a document entitled "Report of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing."

2. The above-mentioned letter included the following paragraphs:

"I draw your attention, in particular, to the Annex to the report containing the recommendations the Working Group for submission to the Conference of the Parties, with regards to:

- The draft Bonn Guidelines on Access and Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising out of their Utilization;
- Other approaches, including the development of an action plan for capacity-building; and
- The role of intellectual property rights in the implementation of access and benefit-sharing arrangements.

I am also conveying to you the request of the Working Group that this report be made available to participants in the second session of WIPO's Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, to be held from 10 to 14 December 2001, in light of the relevance of the report to the work of the Committee. Specifically, the Working Group sought the cooperation of the Committee with respect to intellectual property issues which have a direct bearing on access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits resulting from their utilization.

I also wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the active participation of WIPO in the meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing. Cooperation between our respective organizations is more important than ever in light of the close interrelationship between access and benefit-sharing and traditional knowledge, on the one hand, and intellectual property rights, on the other hand."

3. The document is reproduced and published in the Annex.

4. The Intergovernmental Committee is invited (i) to take note of this document and the Report contained in the Annex to the document and (ii) to express its views on the recommendations contained in the Report set out in the Annex that concern WIPO.

[Annex follows]