



**environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**



THE **ABS**  
CAPACITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
INITIATIVE



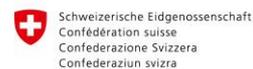
L'INITIATIVE DE  
RENFORCEMENT  
DES CAPACITES  
POUR L'APA



# Points to consider when assessing policy options for DSI

## Report from an informal global experts dialogue convened in Pretoria, 6 - 8 November 2019

The ABS Initiative is funded by



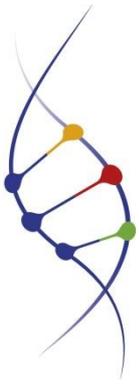
Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,  
Education and Research EAER  
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

and implemented by



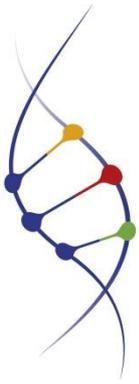
# Context



## Supporting Science-Policy Process on DSI

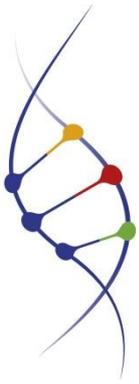
- COP 14 acknowledged divergence of opinions on DSI and called for Science-Policy Process and further consultations
- Purpose: develop **recommendations** for COP 15 on how to address DSI in the context of the Post-2020 framework
- Process:
  - Studies
  - DSI AHTEG 2
  - AHTEG report to be considered at OEWG 3
- Deadlock on DSI could impact on successful adoption of Post-2020 framework at CoP 15 – additional consultations needed

# Purpose of this presentation



- Information to help participants prepare for the webinar on **Policy options for access and benefit-sharing and digital sequence information on genetic resources** organized by the SCBD, to be held on 11 February 2021
- Third in a series:
  - First: *Understanding digital sequence information on genetic resources: a technical overview of its production, distribution and use* (1 December 2020, available on YouTube in [French](#) and [English](#))
  - Second: *Process and recent outcomes related to digital sequence information on genetic resources under the CBD* (9 December 2020, available on [YouTube](#))

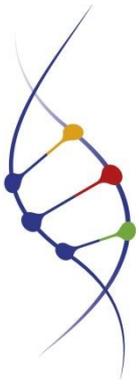
# Background



## Global DSI Dialogue

- Reaching consensus requires working from a common understanding of the considerations that matter to different stakeholder groups
- **1st Global DSI dialogue** held in Pretoria in November 2019
- Financed by **Norway in cooperation with South Africa**; German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) commissioned the ABS Initiative to implement
- **Informal space** for exchange of information: common understanding of issues, trust building, capacity development

# 1st Global DSI Dialogue



## Who?

- 65 participants from 27 countries
  - Governments from all UN regions (regional representation, focus on those active in the discussion)
  - Other stakeholders
  - Experts
  - International organisations

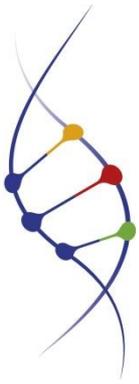
## How?

- Chatham House Rule – no attribution!

## What outputs?

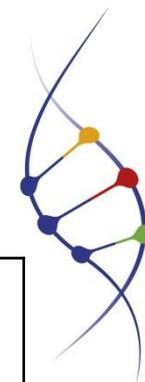
- **Policy options for DSI under the CBD** (to be presented as part of SCBD webinar on 11 February)
- **Points for consideration:** checklists for assessing possible policy options

# Points for consideration



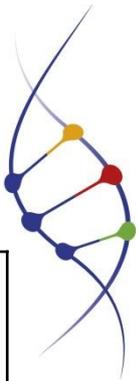
- **Checklists** for assessing policy options for DSI
- **Non-exhaustive open lists** brainstormed at Global DSI dialogue
- **Seven draft clusters** of points to consider
  - Deliverables
  - Governance aspects
  - Operational aspects
  - Economic aspects
  - Potential impacts
  - Capacity
  - Other aspects

# Points to consider



<b>Deliverables</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alignment of incentives regarding CBD objectives</li><li>• Contribution to fight biodiversity loss</li><li>• Win-win-win gains (providers – users – environment)</li><li>• Global initiative delivering global benefits</li><li>• Potential to generate benefits</li><li>• Ability to quantify benefits (monetary / non-monetary)</li><li>• Ability to minimize biopiracy</li><li>• Enhance the ability to meet the SDGs</li></ul>
<b>Governance aspects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enforceability</li><li>• Voluntary or compulsory</li><li>• Fairness and equity</li><li>• Recognition of/link to provider of the (initial) genetic resource</li><li>• Legal certainty / predictability</li><li>• Ability to monitor</li><li>• Ability to build trust among partners/stakeholders</li><li>• Inclusiveness and recognition of the priorities of all stakeholders</li><li>• Transparency on storage and use of DSI</li><li>• Transparency in decision-making, distribution of funds etc.</li></ul>

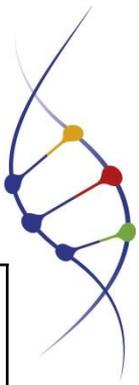
# Points to consider (cont.)



<b>Operational aspects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Feasible / doable / can be implemented</li><li>• Simplicity of the system</li><li>• Low level of complexity</li><li>• Effectiveness</li><li>• Flexibility / Adaptability</li><li>• Workable for different types of users</li><li>• Future proof (takes into account technological development)</li><li>• Ability to be implemented timely/quickly</li><li>• Not reinventing the wheel (i.e. not replicating existing systems but rather building on them)</li><li>• Compatibility with other/existing systems* legal frameworks, databases, funds, etc.</li></ul>
<b>Economic aspects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cost of setting up and maintaining the system</li><li>• Transaction costs</li><li>• Economics of information i.e. information spreads easily and is hard to control; asymmetry of information</li><li>• Incentives/ Incentives to participate</li></ul>

*\* according to participants these points require further clarification*

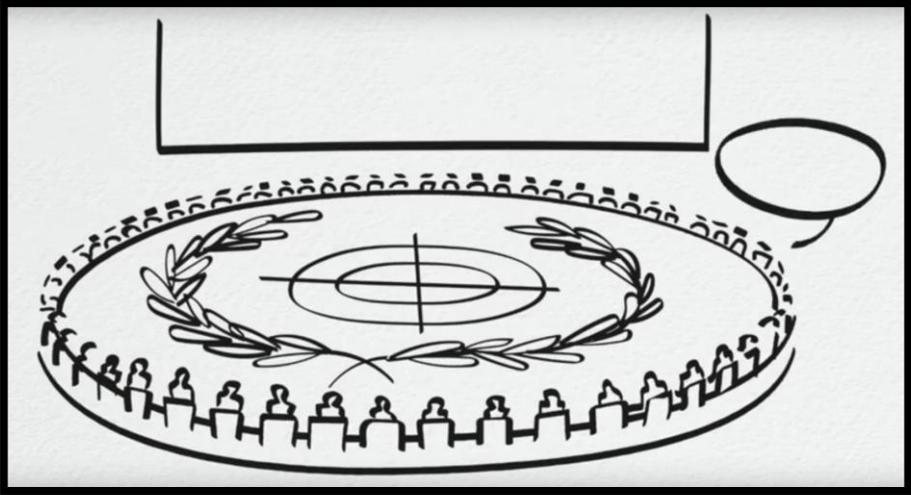
# Points to consider (cont.)



<b>Potential impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consequences for everyone (stakeholders affected directly/indirectly)</li><li>• Impact on R&amp;D</li><li>• Not disruptive to open access</li><li>• No impediments to research</li><li>• No barriers to attaining the SDGs (DSI technology is applied in many SDG relevant sectors)</li></ul>
<b>Capacity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Capacity development for the use of DSI (level playing field)</li><li>• Ability to use DSI globally</li></ul>
<b>Other aspects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Realistic expectations</li><li>• Consideration of the environmental footprint</li><li>• Ease of access to justice*</li></ul>

*\* according to participants these points require further clarification*

# Towards mutual understanding



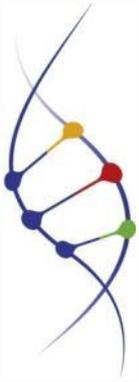
# Additional information (by ABS Initiative)



## Supporting the science-policy process

- Introductory Guide on DSI (available in [French](#) and [English](#))
- Pretoria DSI Dialogue full report (available in [French](#) and [English](#))
- Whiteboard Video *DSI simply explained* (available in [English](#))
- Presentations Webinar „1-0-1 of DSI“, ABS Initiative / SCBD ([available in French and English](#))

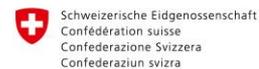
# Thank you!



ABS Capacity Development Initiative  
Division Climate Change, Environment & Infrastructure  
GloBe - Department Sector and Global Programmes

Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH  
Postfach /P.O. Box 5180  
65726 Eschborn  
Germany  
T + 49 6196 79-3285  
M + 49 171 1027839  
F + 49 6196 7980-3285  
E [hartmut.meyer@giz.de](mailto:hartmut.meyer@giz.de)  
S [hartmut-meyer-giz \(Skype\)](https://www.skype.com/partner/hartmut-meyer-giz)  
I [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)  
More about the ABS Initiative: [www.abs-initiative.info](http://www.abs-initiative.info)

The ABS Initiative is funded by



Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,  
Education and Research EAER  
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

and implemented by

