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To: African National Focal Points of the  
Convention on Biological Diversity

African National Focal Points of the Nagoya  
Protocol on ABS

**ABS Capacity Development Initiative**

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**Reference: Remote / virtual capacity building and coordination by the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and the African Union Commission**

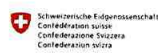
Dear National Focal Points,

On behalf of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative we wish to reiterate our regret for the unfortunate postponement of the 13th Pan-African ABS Workshop focusing on ABS in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS and capacity development supporting Africa's post-2020 positioning and international discussion however continue to be highly relevant.

It is in this light that we are pleased to inform you that the African Union Commission and the ABS Capacity Development Initiative will continue supporting the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS in Africa thereby also contributing to a constructive elaboration in particular with respect to benefit-sharing mechanisms that can deliver on conservation and sustainable use objectives of the Convention in the Post 2020 global biodiversity framework negotiation process.

Several clusters of remote support and virtual capacity building / coordination were approved by the recent meeting of the Regional Steering Committee for Africa of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative which was held virtually on 24 February 2020. These include: (1) mapping and fostering the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Africa; (2) knowledge generation on Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) and benefit sharing; (3) contribution of ABS to conservation and sustainable use; and (4) outreach and capacity development on Digital Sequence Information (DSI) in Africa. Targeted activities under these clusters will be conducted in a way that African Union (AU) Member States and respective stakeholders are better informed and prepared on key elements of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

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Among the initial activities, you are invited to attend a webinar on “Options to implement ABS”<sup>1</sup> against the backdrop of the African Union ABS Guidelines for the coordinated implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Africa. The webinar will be held on **Thursday, 30 April 2020** and introduces *inter alia* a flow chart approach to visualize national PIC, MAT processes as well as related permitting processes. Individual remote / web-based support including relevant documentation will be available in the prior and after webinar to interested countries and stakeholders, i.e. on the creation of national permitting flow charts, the population of the ABS Clearing-House on ABS procedures and a capacity needs assessment for further ABS implementation against the AU Guidelines.

Considering the current international discussions and capacity building needs on DSI, we would also like to invite you to join a webinar on DSI on **Thursday, 28 May 2020** with a view to supporting the pan-African consultation and coordination process on how DSI may be reflected in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Further support in relation to this topic will be provided by experts and participants will be given the opportunity to have their questions answered by these experts during and after the webinar.

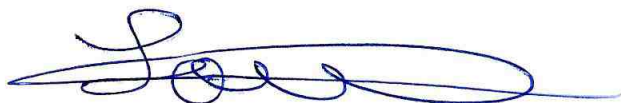
Moreover, in preparation for the Third Open-ended Working Group (OEWG 3) on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the ABS Initiative in partnership with the African Union Commission is planning to offer further virtual events, e.g. on the contribution of ABS to conservation and sustainable use or on assessing and measuring (non-)monetary benefit-sharing based on mutually agreed terms which will be highly relevant in the context of the proposed ABS Goal E and Target 11 of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

All of these aspects of the interim “remote” capacity developing clusters will feed back into the 13th Pan-African ABS Workshop focusing on ABS in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework which is expected to be held at the end of 2020.

Invitations for all virtual activities will be sent to African CBD and ABS Focal Points in due course. Information on the events will also be communicated via the AU Online Coordination Tool.

Please don't hesitate to get back to us in case of suggestions and questions.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo  
Director for the Department of HRST  
African Union Commission



Dr. Hartmut Meyer  
Team Leader, ABS Capacity Development Initiative

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.abs-initiative.info/fileadmin/media/Knowledge\\_Center/Pulications/Implementation\\_Options/Collection\\_-\\_Implementation\\_Options\\_-\\_ABS-I\\_-\\_201909.pdf](http://www.abs-initiative.info/fileadmin/media/Knowledge_Center/Pulications/Implementation_Options/Collection_-_Implementation_Options_-_ABS-I_-_201909.pdf)