DSI MULTILATERAL MECHANISM AND THE CALI FUND

What Is Needed to Enable Early Operationalization?

CBD COP 17 Side Event #7295
Yerevan, 19. October 2026

DSI Informal Dialogue Partnership



Agenda

Welcome / Opening Aram Meymaryan, Armenia (COP Presidency) Ida Hellmark, Norway
The Informal DSI Dialogue Partnership Process
Leuven Dialogue Construction Site Overview: “The 12”
Reflections: Stake- and Rightsholder Messages to DSI negotiators Input/Moderation: Michael Halewood, Bioversity International
Reflections: Leuven II Dialogue “Solution pathways” Input/Moderation: Suhel al-Janabi, GeoMedia
Plenary Discussion
Conclusions and Farewell Mery Ciacci, European Commission

Two tracks form the landscape: the formal CBD process and the informal global dialogue

FORMAL CBD PROCESS

Nov 2024
COP 16, Cali
Decision 16/2 and its enclosures define the mechanism

Feb 2025
Cali Fund launch
MOU signed 25 February

2025 - 2026
Steering Committee reports
Governance, operations manual, IPLC pathways

2026
AHTEG report
Allocation methodology for COP 17 - enclosure III

16-19 Feb 2026
SBI-6, Rome
No DSI recommendation adopted

4-12 Aug 2026
SBI-7, Nairobi
DSI - CBD/SBI/7/L.13

19-30 Oct 2026
COP 17, Yerevan
The decision point

NOV 2024 → **OCT 2026**

INFORMAL GLOBAL DIALOGUE

5 Feb 2026
Global webinar
Where do we stand with the implementation of the DSI MLM / the Cali Fund?

10-12 Mar 2026
Leuven I
Informal Global Dialogue on DSI and the Cali Fund

21 May 2026
Global webinar
Report and Reflection on the Informal Global Dialogue on DSI and the Cali Fund

15-18 Jun 2026
Utrecht
Grounding the Cali Fund: IPLC-Industry Informal Dialogue

9 Jul 2026
Global webinar
Exploring the Implications of CBD COP 16/2 Provisions on the DSI MLM

Aug 2026
SBI-7 side events
Update on Informal Work and Test phases; Financial Mechanisms and Incentives

18 Sep 2026
Leuven II
Landscape of Construction Sites - informal dialogue for COP 17 readiness

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

- **Experiences from testing phases in global funds**
- **Money Out: A Collaborative Approach for Biodiversity Disbursement**
- **Analytical Reflection of DSI in post-GBF NBSAPs**
- **Gender dimensions in benefit-sharing from DSI**
- **Legal and regulatory certainty on ABS and DSI across countries**
- **Non-monetary benefits and database implementation of Decision 16/2**
- **Inter-instrument work across DSI benefit-sharing systems (BBNJ, PABS)**
- **Considerations of the ITPGRFA in NBSAPs**

“Leuven II”: two events, one connected process

Stake- and Rightsholders’ Exchange

- 21–22 Sept 2026
- Industry, IPLCs/CSOs, non-commercial research, experts and UN secretariats
- Building and stumbling blocks
- Solution pathways and messages for negotiators

MESSAGES

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RELAY

Joint Relay

- 23 Sept 2026
- Stake- and rightsholder messages presented to negotiators
- Clarification and initial reactions
- Co-created pathways toward COP 17

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Negotiators’ Dialogue

- 24–25 Sept 2026
- 20+ negotiators from all regions, plus experts and UN secretariats
- COP mandates and construction sites
- Landing zones: implement, test and review

LANDSCAPE OF CONSTRUCTION SITES

Twelve construction sites; together they define whether the mechanism can actually run

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FUND MONEY IN

01
Triggers + rates
Make sector triggers, thresholds and rates workable.

02
Additional modalities
Test proportionate product- or service-based pathways.

03
Contribution certificate
Clarify purpose, issuance, recognition and legal value.

04
National measures
Align national measures; prevent obligation stacking.

05
Other frameworks
Coordinate implementation and avoid duplication.

EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS MONEY OUT

06
Allocation + disbursement
Set the allocation formula, criteria and access procedures.

07
Non-monetary benefits
Meet self-identified needs through capacity, cooperation and technology transfer.

08
IPLC participation + access
Secure participation, funding access and appropriate safeguards.

DATA

09
Public databases, tools + models
Maintain open access with stronger transparency, safeguards and reporting.

GOVERNANCE

10
Institutional arrangements / Cali Fund administration
Set the MOU, annexes and operating arrangements under decision 16/2.

RUN AND REVIEW

11
Phased operationalisation, testing + learning
Generate evidence and lessons before COP 18.

12
Effectiveness-review methodology
Define indicators, evidence sources and institutional responsibilities.

Numbering and headlines follow the Leuven II landscape.

MANDATE MAP

Four sites carry an express mandate from Cali; SBI 7/4 offers options on five; four being picked up at COP 17/6

EXPRESS MANDATE

decision 16/2 names COP 17

01 Triggers + rates

Set thresholds and rates - annex 1-5

06 Allocation + disbursement

Consider the expert group allocation formula - enclosure III

12 Effectiveness-review methodology

Adopt the review methodology - annex 29, enclosure IV

10 Institutional arrangements / CF administration

Course of action on the MOU and Steering Committee documents - L.13 para. 3

SBI 7/4 OFFERS AN OPTION

text is bracketed; COP 17 chooses

02 Additional modalities

Commission a study, or establish a working group - paras. 2 and 2.Alt

09 Public databases, tools + models

Invite metadata, provenance and consent fields - para. 9 (b)

12 Effectiveness-review methodology

Adopt, or merely take note of, the methodology - para. 14

10 Institutional arrangements / CF administration

Regional-group nominations; periodic SBI consistency review - paras. 6-7

08 IPLC participation + access

Invite IPLC-led educational material - para. 9 (a)

COP 17/6

SCBD puts on the table

01 Triggers + rates

Text in 17/6 on thresholds and contribution rates via elements of a draft decision

06 Allocation + disbursement

Text in 17/6 on allocation methodology, adopting allocation methodology and interim solutions + Steering Committee role

03 Contribution certificate

Text in 17/6 on recognizing Cali Fund certificate in national laws + invitation to provide information to interim Secretariat.

11 Phased operationalisation, testing + learning

Text in 17/6 on welcoming structured approach to implementation

07 Non-Monetary Benefit-Sharing

Text in 17/6 from, SC , requesting ES to commission a study (capacity gaps, self assessments, good examples, reporting, etc.),

Part 1: Stake- and Rightsholders' Exchange

Who participated

- Mainly industry representatives
- IPLC and civil-society representatives
- Non-commercial research institutions
- Mixed stakeholder groups
- Chatham House Rule

Agenda and flow

- Formal and informal process updates
- Map building and stumbling blocks
- Prioritise COP 17 challenges
- Develop pathways: legal certainty, clarity, fairness and testing
- Agree and relay messages

Broad findings

- Shared interest in moving from principles to practical implementation
- Convergence on workability, fairness and greater clarity
- Different priorities and concerns across constituencies
- Strong value placed on direct exchange and mutual understanding
- Concrete messages prepared for the Relay with negotiators

Relay: Messages from stake- and rightsholders

Industry

- Support a workable multilateral solution
- Certificate must give full legal certainty, no stacking with national obligations or other international agreements
- Contributions must be proportionate to value from direct DSI use
    - “based on objective assessment criteria”
    - Clarify key terms (entity, direct and indirect use, indicative ...)
- Want inclusive, time-bound intersessional process to COP 18

IPLCs/CSOs and mixed groups

- Certificate should act as incentive to contribute
- Require information re legal provenance of data from all DSI uploaders
- Prioritise direct access for biodiversity stewards
- Broaden the benefit-sharing based by implementing Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol.
- Develop additional modalities for sharing of non-monetary benefits arising from the use of DSI
- Time-bound flexibility to test various MLM aspects for learning purposes in collaboration with SC
- Explore practical ways for supportiveness between ABS instruments to streamline processes and avoid stacking of obligations.

Panel discussion

Reflection on messages from stake- and rightsholders

- Preston Hardison, International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB)
- Mark Ball, Syngenta Group
- Guilherme Olivera, Universidade do Parà

Part 2: Informal Negotiators' Dialogue

Who participated

- 20+ key negotiators from all global regions
- Recognised experts and UN secretariat representatives
- 35 invited participants overall
- Chatham House Rule
- Safe space for candid pre-COP exchange

Agenda and flow

- Reflect on Relay messages
- Update formal and informal processes
- Map 12 construction sites to COP mandates
- **Develop solution pathways and landing zones**
- Identify common ground and open questions

Results

Common ground

- Move to implementation, no perfect system needed
- Keep 16/2 core, add bounded, supervised pilots
- Use AHTEG methodology, improve evidence
- Legal certainty is the key private-sector incentive
- NMBS and databases: intersessional work, COP 18

Still open

- Certainty before or after contributions?
- Whether rate changes would incentivise
- Limits of flexibility without reopening 16/2
- Thresholds, indirect use and treatment of SME / start-up acquisitions by large companies
- (Intersessional) process and instruments for issues COP 17 cannot settle

Main suggestions from Leuven's group work



1 Allocation

- Use the **AHTEG methodology** (~50% **equality base** plus species richness, DSI count, economic capacity , TK) as **working basis**: functional, not final
- Work towards **Stewardship Index**
- Make **data, weighting and biases** transparent so Parties understand implications
- Agree **who, when, at what cost** for further work
- **IPBES** advisory role ?

2 Governance

- Not reopening Gov' structure at every COP: Clear **SC mandate**, task list and **reporting line to COP**
- Align **MoU, ToR, SAA, LoI** with Decision 16/2
- Nominations via **Bureau**; **South + North co-chairs**; minimal **UN role**
- **Lean** but **regular reporting**, stronger **communication** to COP, Regions, Public

3 Sandbox

- **Money IN:** contributions via "aggregators" (likeminded industry + donors)
- **Interim certificate** or recognition as incentive
- **Money OUT: project pilots** with countries and IPLCs to test disbursement and impact
- **Breakthrough contributor** and visibility for first movers ("awards")

4 Proportionality

- **Keep within 16/2**
- **Thresholds at corporate / group level**
- **Contribution base: legal** or **functional entity** using DSI
- **Auditable self-disclosure** of DSI exposure
- **"Earn & Learn":** contribute and explain the method /entity
- **COP review** of explanations
- Add DSI use to **Industry Disclosure Frameworks**

5 Certificates

- Certificate key instrument to avoid **double payments** and stacking
- Users either contribute to the **Cali Fund via the MPTFO** or follow the **national ABS route**
- Party **recognizing certificate**, fulfils or exempts from national obligations; ntl. law / recognition **mapping needed**
- Parties not recognising would **not receive allocations**; (an idea for after COP 17)

Panel discussion

Informal Negotiators' Dialogue “Solution Pathways”

- Badrinarayanan Balaji, India
- Thomas Greiber, Germany
- Natalie Feltman, South Africa
- Gustavo Pinilla, Colombia
- Kathryn Davis, Canada