The DSI Informal Dialogue Partnership

Asia-Pacific Pre-COP17 Webinar on Digital Sequence Information:

Advancing implementation of the multilateral mechanism and the Cali Fund

Co-hosted by the

National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia

and the

National Institute of Genetics of Japan

Thursday, 8th of October 2026 – 08:00 to 10:00 UTC

Link to the recording

Funded by:

Norway

Implemented by:

CCC México Centro de Colaboración Cívica

GeoMedia Environment·Communication·Development

Table of Contents

Executive Summary 3

Webinar Opening 5

Input by SCBD Charlotte Germain-Aubrey, SCBD: "Agenda Item 11: Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on genetic resources" 5

Input by Suhel al-Janabi, GeoMedia:"Landscape of construction sites and potential solution pathways" 6

Panel 1: Stake- and rightsholders 7

Panel 2: Government representatives 10

Closing Remarks 13

Annex 1: Presentation "Agenda Item 11: Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on genetic resources" by Charlotte Germain-Aubrey, SCBD 14

Annex 2: Presentation "Landscape of construction sites and potential solution pathways" by Suhel al Janabi, GeoMedia 24

Executive Summary

Below is a condensed executive summary suitable for the webinar report, bringing together the main messages from the opening, substantive inputs, both panels and the closing discussion.

The webinar brought together around 100 participants from across the Asia-Pacific region to exchange views on the implementation of the Digital Sequence Information (DSI) Multilateral Mechanism (MLM) and its Cali Fund ahead of CBD COP17. The discussion was explicitly framed as an informal exchange rather than an attempt to develop a common regional position. Participants broadly agreed that the priority at COP17 should be to **move from the architecture established by Decision 16/2 towards practical implementation**, while preserving open access to DSI and ensuring that benefit sharing contributes meaningfully to conservation, sustainable use and capacity development.

The substantive inputs identified several **priority implementation issues**. These include contribution thresholds and rates, identification of covered companies and users, allocation and disbursement methodologies, the role and legal status of a certificate, non-monetary benefit-sharing (NMBS), database governance and transparency, and the methodology for the COP18 effectiveness review. Participants repeatedly stressed the need to distinguish issues that must be resolved at COP17 from those that can be refined through implementation and learning. In particular, agreeing the COP18 review methodology at COP17 was considered essential to allow sufficient time to collect evidence.

A strong message emerging across the webinar was **"start implementing, test and improve"**. Rather than reopening the architecture of Decision 16/2, participants favoured pilots, sandboxing and phased implementation to generate evidence and identify practical problems. This approach could be applied to contribution modalities, certificates, fund allocation and disbursement, and the wider functioning of the mechanism.

The panels highlighted important differences in perspectives but also areas of convergence. The **IPLC representative stressed agency and direct access**, arguing that the 50% allocation for IPLCs must translate into accessible resources over which communities can exercise meaningful influence. Direct-access arrangements should accommodate diverse forms of IPLC institutions while maintaining appropriate fiduciary safeguards. At the same time, the **database representative emphasised that open access, data permanence, provenance and scientific integrity** need to be maintained, with safeguards for sensitive information but without turning scientific databases into bodies that adjudicate competing claims over data.

The **civil-society representative** cautioned against presenting **Cali Fund contributions as a substitute for ABS compliance**. Contributions should not replace obligations concerning lawful access, national legislation, non-monetary benefit sharing or the rights of provider countries and IPLCs. Greater accountability and transparency around DSI use and provenance were therefore identified as important complementary elements. Possible incentives for contributions—including public procurement, tax measures and conditions on public R&D funding—were discussed, but participants stressed that incentives alone cannot resolve underlying compliance and provenance issues.

Non-monetary benefit sharing emerged as a major gap in the current architecture. The **research representative** noted that NMBS remains insufficiently operationalised, with limited guidance, measurable indicators, implementation channels and predictable financing. Particular attention was given to capacity building, access to databases, bioinformatics, technology transfer and research collaboration. There was a call for a dedicated NMBS implementation framework, clearer allocation of resources for capacity development, and practical pilots to demonstrate how NMBS can work in practice.

Government representatives broadly reinforced the **implementation-first approach**. They called for clear and workable contribution rules, simple payment procedures, broad participation

by relevant companies and flexibility to refine more complex modalities through experience. The **Pacific representative** additionally stressed equitable allocation for countries with limited DSI capacity and high conservation costs, noting that allocation methodologies should not reproduce existing inequalities simply because some countries are underrepresented in global databases. Across the government panel, meaningful IPLC participation, capacity building and adaptive learning were repeatedly highlighted.

Overall, the webinar pointed towards a **pragmatic pathway for COP17**: preserve the architecture of Decision 16/2; clarify the minimum rules required to begin mobilising contributions; provide greater legal and operational certainty; ensure that IPLC access and participation are meaningful; operationalise NMBS; improve transparency and provenance while safeguarding open access; and use pilots and evidence to refine the mechanism rather than seeking to resolve every methodological question upfront. The closing discussion underscored that the success of the Cali Fund should ultimately be measured not only by the volume of contributions generated, but by whether resources reach countries and communities, strengthen capacity and support biodiversity conservation.

A further overarching message was the importance of continued regional dialogue and trust-building. Given the diversity of Asia-Pacific countries as DSI providers, users, governments, researchers and rights holders, regular exchange was seen as important for sharing implementation experience, building capacity and developing mutual understanding through COP17 and towards the COP18 review.

Webinar Opening

The moderator of the webinar, **Timothy Hodges, McGill University, Canada** welcomed the participants and briefly introduced the agenda:

- Welcome Remarks
- Input SCBD
- Input Suhel
- Panel 1: Stake- and rightsholders
- Panel 2: Government representatives
- Closing Remarks

He indicated that the Chat function would be open throughout the webinar and invited the ~100 participants, representing all Asia-Pacific subregions and all relevant stakeholder groups, to share their questions and comments of which some would be addressed towards the end of the webinar.

Dr. Agus Haryono, Deputy Director for Research and Innovation Facilitation at BRIN in Indonesia, welcomed participants in his welcome remarks on behalf of Indonesia's National Research and Innovation Agency and thanked the National Institute of Genetics of Japan, the Informal DSI Dialogue Partnership and the CBD Secretariat for their cooperation. He highlighted the importance of the upcoming COP17 in Yerevan, noting that while Decision 16/2 established the multilateral mechanism and Cali Fund, the key challenge is now **making the mechanism work in practice**—ensuring contributions, benefit sharing, conservation outcomes and continued open access to DSI.

He stressed the particular relevance for the Asia-Pacific region, given its biodiversity, growing research and biotechnology sectors, and role both as a provider and user of DSI. He identified three priorities for inclusive regional preparation: **building capacity**, particularly in developing countries; **strengthening cooperation and trust** between developed and developing countries; and **addressing practical implementation questions**, including contributions, fund allocation and distribution, and review of the mechanism.

Haryono reaffirmed Indonesia's commitment to constructive engagement and emphasised that research and innovation are closely linked to benefit sharing through scientific collaboration, technology transfer and capacity building. He underlined that the webinar was **not a negotiating session and did not seek a common regional position**, but aimed to facilitate open exchange and identify issues requiring attention at COP17 and during the intersessional period.

Input by SCBD Charlotte Germain-Aubrey, SCBD: "Agenda Item 11: Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on genetic resources"

Due to the time difference Charlotte provided in her prerecorded presentation an overview of the status of the **DSI Multilateral Mechanism and Cali Fund** and the key issues ahead of COP 17. For details refer to her presentation in Annex 1 of the report. She recalled that COP 16 operationalised the mechanism and that substantial intersessional work has since focused on making the system operational.

She highlighted the main outstanding issues for COP 17, including **contribution rates and company-size thresholds, the methodology for allocating funds, non-monetary benefit sharing, the certificate, governance arrangements, data transparency and accessibility, and the methodology for the COP 18 review**.

Particular emphasis was placed on the need to agree the **review methodology at COP 17** so that data can be collected in time for the effectiveness review at COP 18. Charlotte also stressed that, given the limited negotiating time at COP 17, delegations should prepare carefully and focus on the main points of divergence.

The presentation also noted the importance of **political support and enabling conditions for the Cali Fund**, including incentives for private-sector contributions and continued support for the Steering Committee and Secretariat.

Input by Suhel al-Janabi, GeoMedia:"Landscape of construction sites and potential solution pathways"

Suhel framed the implementation of the Cali Fund as a set of **"construction sites"** – areas where the basic architecture has been established by COP16 but where the need for further practical work has been identified in the formal and informal intersessional process. These include contributions and triggers, allocation and disbursement, non-monetary benefit-sharing, databases, governance, certificates, and testing and review of the mechanism. For details refer to Annex 2 of the report.

A major focus is **"money in"**: making contribution triggers, thresholds and rates workable and proportionate, clarifying whether additional contribution pathways could complement the sectoral approach, and resolving the purpose and legal status of a **certificate**. A recognised certificate could help avoid "obligation stacking" and double payments between the Cali Fund and national ABS measures, while also clarifying the relationship with other relevant frameworks such as the Plant Treaty, WHO and BBNJ.

On **"money out"**, further work is needed on the allocation formula, disbursement, non-monetary benefit-sharing, and practical implementation of the requirement for IPLCs to have access to and participate in at least 50% of the funds. Databases represent another construction site: the challenge is to maintain open access while improving transparency, safeguards and reporting. Suhel also highlighted the need to test the mechanism systematically before COP18 and develop evidence and indicators for the review of the Cali Fund's effectiveness.

Drawing on the recent informal dialogue in Leuven, Belgium, Suhel reported **broad support from industry for a workable Cali Fund**, including willingness to contribute, but stressed that legal certainty is crucial. Industry called for proportionate contribution rates and clearer definitions of thresholds, entities, indirect use and the meaning of "indicative" rates. IPLCs and civil society similarly saw certificates as a potential incentive for contributions, while stressing transparency and legal provenance in databases, direct access, and flexibility in testing the mechanism.

The Leuven discussions identified several **solution-oriented ideas**:

- Retain the existing governance structure but **strengthen the Steering Committee's mandate and communication;**
- Use a structured approach, incl. **sandboxing,** to test the system and potentially an interim certificate;
- Explore more **proportionate contribution approaches** based on corporate/group-level thresholds and self-disclosure;
- Develop a **certificate that Parties would recognise** so that contributions through the Cali Fund could **fulfil relevant national obligations**.

Suhel concluded that the common ground is to **move from design towards implementation rather than wait for a perfect system**. Supervised pilots, stronger evidence, legal certainty, and focused work on non-monetary benefit-sharing and databases should proceed while remaining within the Cali decision framework. Key unresolved questions concern the sequencing of legal certainty and contributions, how much flexibility is possible intersessionally without reopening Decision 16/2, and whether additional working groups or studies are needed.

Panel 1: Stake- and rightsholders

The moderator introduced briefly the 4 panellists:

- **June Rubis,** Building Indigenous Initiatives in Heritage (BiiH), Sarawak
- **Masanori Arita,** DNA Data Bank of Japan, National Institute of Genetics, Japan
- **Nithin Ramakrishnan,** Third World Network, India
- **Gono Semiadi**, National Research and Innovation Agency Indonesia

He posed the following question to them:

"From your stake- and rightsholders perspective, what is a priority to be addressed in Yerevan, Armenia, at COP17? What would be a desired outcome and what would that outcome look like?"

June, representing IPLCs from Malaysian Borneo on the Cali Fund Steering Committee, emphasised that **direct access to Cali Fund resources is fundamentally about agency, not simply receiving money**. IPLCs should be able to identify their own priorities and decide how funding is used, while contributing to CBD objectives.

She outlined **three key design dimensions for direct access: access, identification and confidence**:



- **Access:** Decision 16/2 provides for government routes as well as direct payments to institutions identified by IPLCs, subject to national circumstances and legislation. The system therefore needs to accommodate the diverse institutional arrangements through which IPLCs operate. At the same time, support should be available to institutions that have a genuine community mandate but may not yet meet all fiduciary requirements.
- **Identification:** IPLC institutions can take many forms – territorial organisations, customary institutions, community associations, cooperatives and networks – and **legal recognition does not always correspond to community legitimacy**. The system should build on IPLCs' existing role in identifying legitimate institutions and setting priorities, while clearly defining the roles of financial oversight and administrative bodies. Experience from the CBD's Article 8(j) process could provide a useful model.
- **Confidence:** All parties need assurance. Governments and contributors need confidence that funds reach appropriately mandated institutions and are properly accounted for,

while IPLCs need confidence that access arrangements remain responsive to their priorities and do not impose requirements designed primarily for other types of organisations. **Safeguards, fiduciary oversight, clear responsibilities and appropriate capacity support** can provide this balance.

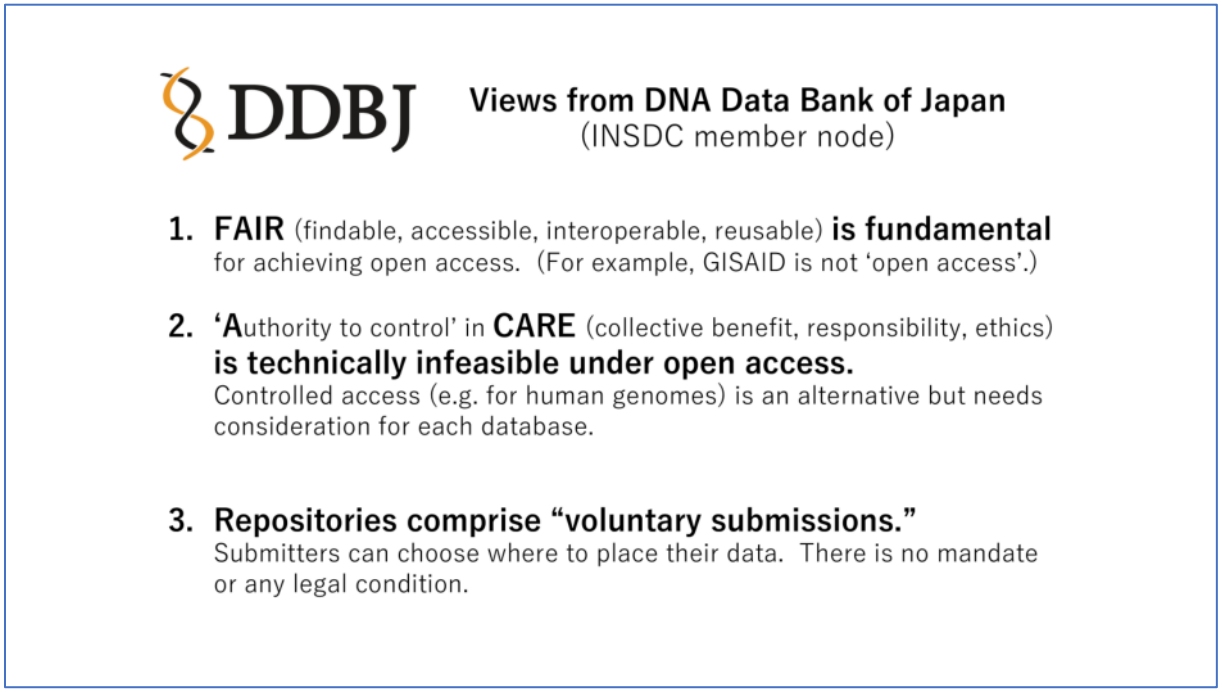
June stressed that **intermediaries and government-facilitated routes should remain possible**, as IPLCs may choose different pathways. However, a genuine direct-access option should also exist. Such a mechanism could strengthen contributors' confidence by making the benefits to IPLCs more visible and tangible.

Core message: *The Cali Fund's direct-access model should combine **IPLC agency and self-determination with credible fiduciary safeguards**, using flexible institutional pathways that reflect diverse national and community circumstances.*

Masanori, speaking from the perspective of the **DNA Data Bank of Japan (DDBJ)**, emphasised that **FAIR principles are already embedded in current INSDC database practices**. Sequence records are required to include provenance information such as geographic location and collection date, while safeguards allow sensitive data – for example relating to endangered species or personal information – to be withheld.

He stressed that **open access does not mean that downstream users are free from legal or other obligations**. DDBJ can link sequence records to relevant licences, legal conditions and notices, including patent rights. However, it cannot impose conditions such as "non-commercial use", as these would conflict with the principle of open access. Traditional knowledge is not directly within the database's remit, although DDBJ respects applicable legal and ethical frameworks.

With regard to CARE, he was clear that the **"A" in CARE – Authority to Control –** is technically infeasible under open access. DDBJ considers submitted data to belong to the submitters, not to the database. Submitters therefore normally retain responsibility and control over their records, while curators intervene only in exceptional cases. Giving third parties authority to modify records would require the database to determine **whose claim is authoritative**, effectively turning a scientific repository into a dispute-resolution or refereeing system – something DDBJ seeks to avoid.



Masanori underscored that the **permanence and transparency of sequence archives are critical scientific and societal assets**, illustrated by the continued accessibility of the first SARS-CoV-2 sequence and its original metadata. At the same time, DDBJ operates controlled-access databases for personal genomes. Controlled access can be an alternative where safeguards are needed, but its applicability would have to be considered for each database.

Key message: *DDBJ supports **FAIR principles, including provenance, persistent identifiers and links to legal conditions.** However, the CARE principle of Authority to Control cannot be implemented under open access, and **DDBJ draws a clear boundary around authority over data**.*

Nithin challenged the framing that the main issue is **how to incentivise companies to contribute to the Cali Fund**. He stressed that the companies targeted by the mechanism are generally large firms, meeting at least two of the thresholds of **USD 20 million in assets, USD 50 million in sales or USD 5 million in profit**. The key question should therefore be what **governments in the companies' jurisdictions** can do to encourage contributions, rather than expecting provider countries – often developing countries with limited resources – to incentivise multinational companies.

He strongly cautioned against treating a **Cali Fund contribution as equivalent to ABS compliance**. Payment into the Fund cannot substitute for **lawful access, compliance with national legislation, non-monetary benefit-sharing, or the rights of provider countries, scientists and IPLCs**. In his view, granting a certificate of compliance simply because a company contributes risks legitimising situations where resources or DSI were accessed improperly and a small payment is subsequently made to the Fund.

He also questioned the growing portrayal of the Cali Fund as a solution to the wider **biodiversity-finance gap**. Given the KMGBF target of USD 30 billion annually in international biodiversity finance, he argued that the Cali Fund cannot realistically substitute for countries meeting their existing financial commitments or responsibilities.

On **incentives**, he highlighted options that should primarily be pursued by user countries, including:

- **Tax incentives**, although he noted civil-society concerns about shifting costs onto public finances;
- **Preferential public procurement** for companies contributing to the Cali Fund;
- **Conditions on public R&D funding**, requiring contributions where DSI is involved; and
- A **transparency register** recording DSI use, monetary and non-monetary benefit-sharing, compliance with national legislation and respect for IPLC rights.

However, Nithin emphasised that incentives alone cannot provide **legal certainty**. Without a mandatory contribution obligation, some users will contribute while others will not. Moreover, even universal contributions would not establish whether the DSI used was lawfully obtained or associated with biopiracy, nor would they resolve requirements for **upstream user identification and mutually agreed terms**, particularly for non-monetary benefit-sharing and collaborative R&D.

He therefore argued that **database accountability and transparency should be a starting point**, in line with paragraph 11 of Decision 16/2. Practical tools – such as verification of legal provenance, user registration and controlled workbench solutions that respect provider-country jurisdiction – already exist in other database fields, including human genetics. The responsibility for addressing these issues, he concluded, should fall primarily on **countries hosting DSI databases and on DSI users**, rather than being shifted to developing provider countries.

Core message: *The Cali Fund should not be presented as a substitute for ABS compliance or national rights. The responsibility for incentivising users and ensuring accountable DSI use lies primarily with user countries, database hosts and users themselves, while database transparency and provenance should be addressed before relying on financial contributions as a proxy for compliance.*

Gono highlighted **non-monetary benefit sharing (NMBS) as a critical but underdeveloped component of the DSI Multilateral Mechanism (MLM)**. While Decision 16/2 provides a conceptual basis for NMBS, it lacks operational guidance, measurable metrics, dedicated implementation pathways and recognition mechanisms. This is particularly problematic for developing countries, where limited access to DSI databases, technology, infrastructure and bioinformatics capacity creates structural inequalities.

He stressed that **DSI databases could become active instruments of benefit sharing**, rather than simply repositories, by supporting capacity building, training and technical assistance. However, Decision 16/2 does not currently establish such functions. Similarly, academic and public researchers are expected to provide NMBS but lack clearly defined channels or metrics for doing so.

A key concern is **funding for capacity building**. Although the Cali Fund could support capacity and technology development, the proportion and allocation methodology remain unclear, creating uncertainty over whether capacity building will receive predictable resources or become a residual funding category.

Looking towards **COP 17**, Gono called for a

- **dedicated NMBS implementation framework**,
- a **defined allocation of Cali Fund resources for capacity building**, and
- **piloting a structured approach** to test how NMBS can work in practice.

His overall message was that **NMBS needs to be operationalised, funded and governed with the same rigour as the monetary component of the MLM**, rather than remaining largely aspirational.

Overall message: *Decision 16/2 represents an important milestone, but NMBS remains **aspirational rather than operational, under-defined and underfunded**. COP 17 should therefore treat NMBS with the same degree of methodological development, funding and governance as the monetary component of the MLM.*

Panel 2: Government representatives

The moderator introduced briefly the 4 panellists:

- **Badrinarayanan Balaji,** National Biodiversity Authority, India
- **Joseph Hurutarau,** Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management & Meteorology, Solomon Islands
- **Belal Qtishat,** Ministry of Environment, Jordan
- **Ye Wang,** Ministry of Ecology and Environment, China

He posed the following question to them:

"In order to make the Cali Fund operational, what needs to be sorted out at COP 17 to get contributions in as soon as possible while improving the modalities of the MLM and its Cali Fund?"

Balaji stressed that **COP 17 should focus on operationalising, rather than reopening, the architecture agreed in Decision 16/2**. The priority should be to make the Multilateral Mechanism and Cali Fund functional, credible and capable of generating resources, while allowing implementation experience to inform future refinements.

A key immediate task is to **make contributions workable** by clarifying thresholds, contribution rates, covered entities and practical payment arrangements. The administrative pathway should be simple and predictable, so contributors know where and how much to pay and how their contributions are confirmed. **Broad participation is essential**, as low participation would significantly reduce resources flowing into the Fund.

Balaji suggested distinguishing between issues that need to be settled now and those that can be refined later. The existing **sectoral approach should provide the starting point**, while more complex approaches for products and services should be developed based on evidence and experience, taking into account revenue potential, equity, transaction costs, legal certainty and compatibility with national ABS systems.

He also highlighted the potential role of a **Cali Fund certificate** in providing predictability to contributors, while stressing that it must complement rather than override national ABS obligations. Similarly, the **allocation of funds ("Money OUT") can continue to be refined** as better data and implementation experience become available; the Fund should not wait for every methodological question to be resolved before beginning operations.

Finally, Balaji strongly supported **piloting and phased implementation** as a way to "plan, do, review and correct".

Overall message: ***Operationalise the agreed architecture****, broaden participation, get resources flowing, generate evidence through implementation, and* ***refine the mechanism through experience and agreed review processes***.

Joseph stressed **broad Pacific support for the DSI Multilateral Mechanism and Cali Fund**, while highlighting the specific circumstances and capacity constraints of Pacific Small Island Developing States.

- **Predictable and workable contributions:** Contribution thresholds and rates should generate timely resources from commercial DSI users, while keeping arrangements clear enough to build confidence among both contributors and recipients and avoiding excessive administrative burdens for small island states.
- **Equitable allocation:** Allocation should reflect Pacific countries' major biodiversity and marine responsibilities, remoteness, high conservation costs and limited laboratory, research, data-management and negotiating capacities. Countries should not receive less simply because their biodiversity is poorly represented in global DSI databases. Existing sequence data and data-based allocation formulas should therefore be applied carefully to avoid reproducing existing inequalities.
- **Direct and meaningful support for IPLCs:** He welcomed the provision that at least half of Cali Fund resources should support the self-identified needs of IPLCs. Communities should participate in setting priorities and deciding how support is used, with respect for customary stewardship and traditional knowledge. Funding and reporting procedures should be accessible and proportionate, particularly for remote communities, women and youth.
- **Capacity building and regional cooperation:** Support should extend beyond financial resources to training, research partnerships, technology transfer and biodiversity information systems, including community-led conservation, mangrove and coastal management, threatened-species monitoring and restoration. Regional cooperation could

help overcome limited administrative capacity while keeping national and community priorities central.

- **Learning and review:** The initial implementation phase and the COP18 review should assess whether countries and communities with limited DSI capacity are actually able to access benefits. The methodology should remain transparent and predictable but be adaptable based on recipient experience.

Overall message: *The Cali Fund should translate global benefit-sharing into **equitable, accessible and lasting support for Pacific biodiversity custodians**, with success measured not only by funds generated but by the benefits reaching countries and communities and strengthening conservation, sustainable development and scientific capacity.*

Belal stressed that the priority now is to **move from the agreement of Decision 16/2 to implementation**, building on the work of the Steering Committee and its report to COP. He emphasised that effective implementation will require **cooperation among Parties**, particularly on governance and the operationalisation of the Cali Fund.

A central issue is **mobilising contributions from medium and large companies**. He called on Parties to develop or strengthen national legislation that enables and encourages companies to contribute to the Cali Fund. The review of the **thresholds for companies** foreseen in paragraph 4 of Decision 16/2 should be used to assess how the system can work nationally, with the two-year period between COPs providing sufficient time to conduct national reviews and translate the outcome into legislation.

Belal also highlighted the need to address **indirect users of DSI**, arguing that this could broaden the contribution base. The treatment of indirect users should therefore be an important issue for negotiation and decision-making at the coming COP.

Key message: *The **focus should shift decisively towards implementation:** establishing **enabling national legislation, securing contributions from relevant companies**, reviewing company thresholds, and clarifying how indirect DSI users can be brought into the contribution system.*

Ye stressed that the **immediate priority for COP 17 should be to make the Cali Fund operational by securing actual payments**. Current pledges should not be treated as equivalent to payments arising from DSI use, since the Fund was established specifically to receive contributions from DSI users rather than general corporate biodiversity donations.

She highlighted the need for COP 17 to clarify **who is required to pay**, including thresholds, company size and categories of DSI users. While the current sector-based modalities could be used to start the system, significant practical difficulties remain in determining how much revenue or profit can actually be attributed to DSI use. She therefore supported a **"start first, improve later" approach**, using trials to identify weaknesses and explore alternative modalities for different sectors.

On the **allocation of funds**, Ye emphasised the importance of ensuring IPLC benefits and participation while recognising that institutional and social structures differ substantially between countries and regions. She therefore favoured **flexibility for recipient countries to determine how funds are distributed to IPLCs**, combined with piloting and subsequent improvement of the system.

Core message: *COP 17 should prioritise **getting the Cali Fund running**, with **clear payer thresholds** and **practical rules**, while **using pilots to refine** both contribution modalities and fund allocation over time.*

Closing Remarks

Mutsuaki Suzuki, Director, ABS Support Office, NIG, Japan closed by thanking the organisers, partners, supporting governments and participants from across the Asia-Pacific region and Europe. He stressed that the webinar was **not intended to create a regional coalition**, but rather to assess the state of implementation of the Multilateral Mechanism and identify what remains unresolved ahead of COP17.

He highlighted several key messages from the speakers:

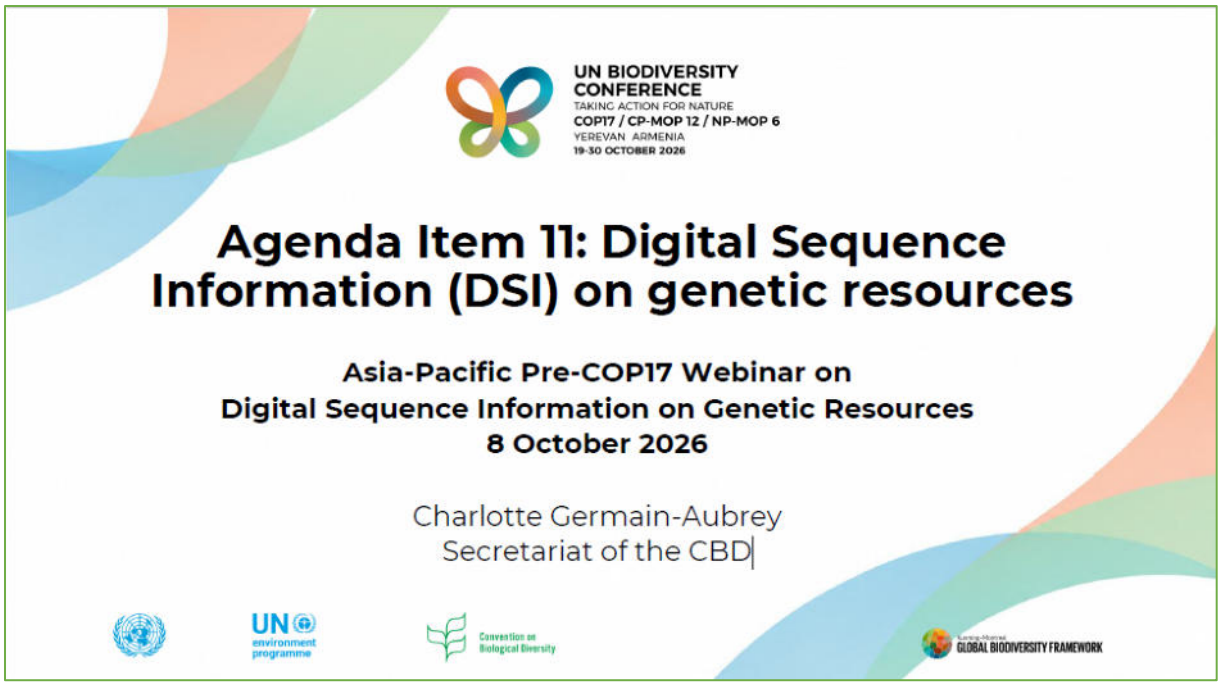
- The **Cali Fund is now operational**, with important implementation issues still requiring attention at COP17.
- The **50% allocation to IPLCs** needs to translate into resources that can actually be accessed and used.
- **Open access and fairness** must remain guiding principles.
- Parties should have incentives to encourage users to engage with the mechanism within their jurisdictions.
- **Non-monetary benefit-sharing** remains an important component of the mechanism.
- The Decision 16/2 architecture should **not be reopened**, while greater clarity is needed on issues such as thresholds.
- Building DSI capacity should not result in **fewer benefits** for countries and stakeholders.
- The Cali Fund's **purpose and balance should remain clear**, while contributions from companies need to be mobilised.

A central closing message was the importance of **continued Asia-Pacific cooperation and dialogue**. Given the region's diversity as providers, users and rights holders, and the different stages of national implementation, Mutsuaki called for regular and open exchange to build experience and mutual trust. He highlighted regional academic networks, including the **Asia ABS Academic Forum (AAAF)**, as useful platforms for knowledge sharing and capacity building.

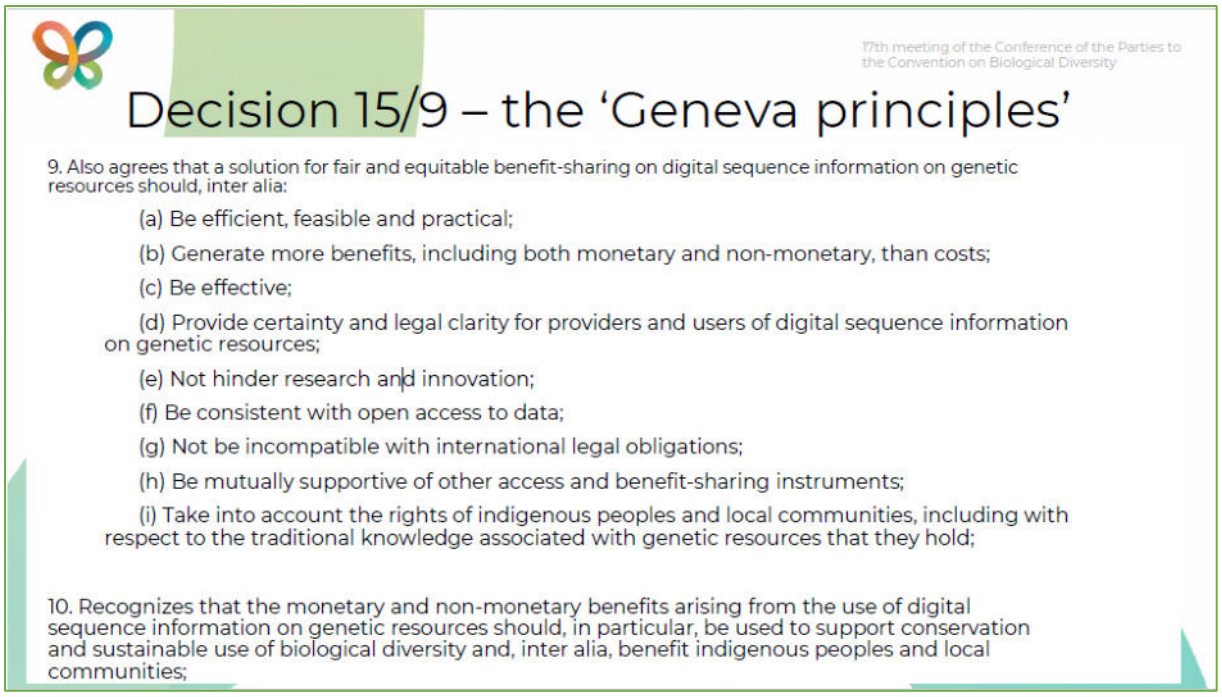
Looking ahead, he encouraged participants to **continue the regional conversation through COP17 and towards the COP18 review** and expressed his hope for continued collaboration to support successful implementation of the Multilateral Mechanism.

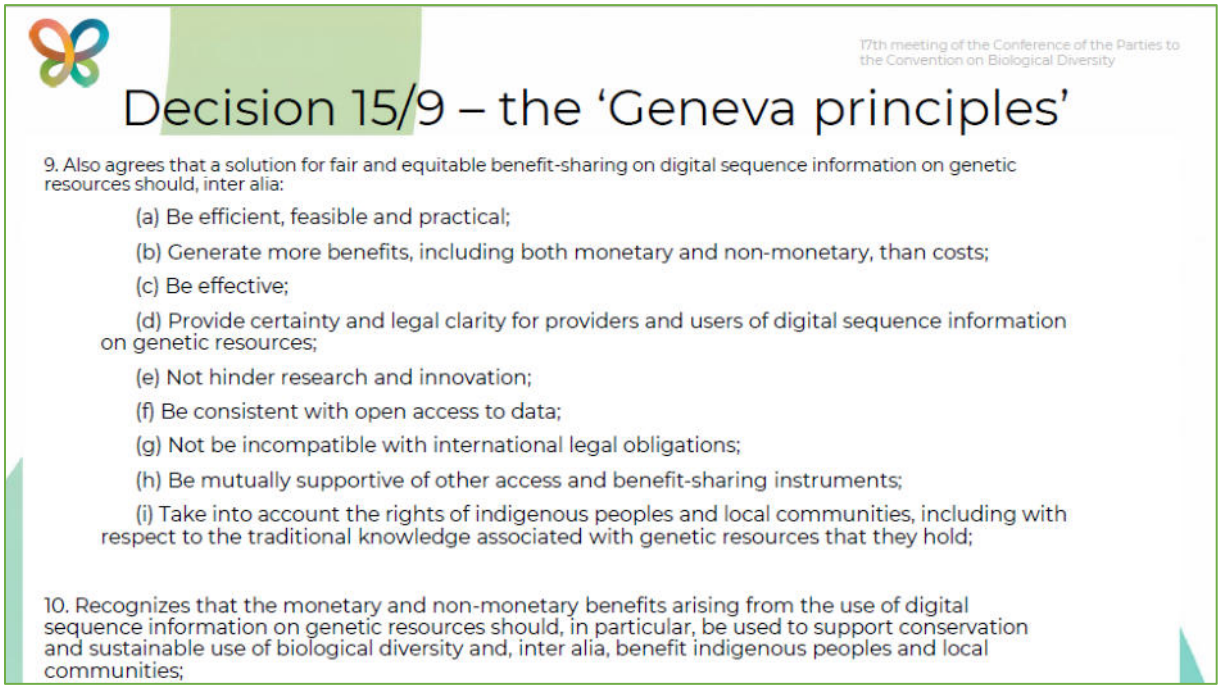
Tim closed the webinar by thanking Dr. Suzuki for his synthesis of the panel. On behalf of the DSI Informal Dialogue Partnership and the organisers, he thanked the **panellists, the co-hosts Indonesia and Japan, and all participants** for their contributions and attendance. He concluded with best wishes and thanks to everyone for joining.

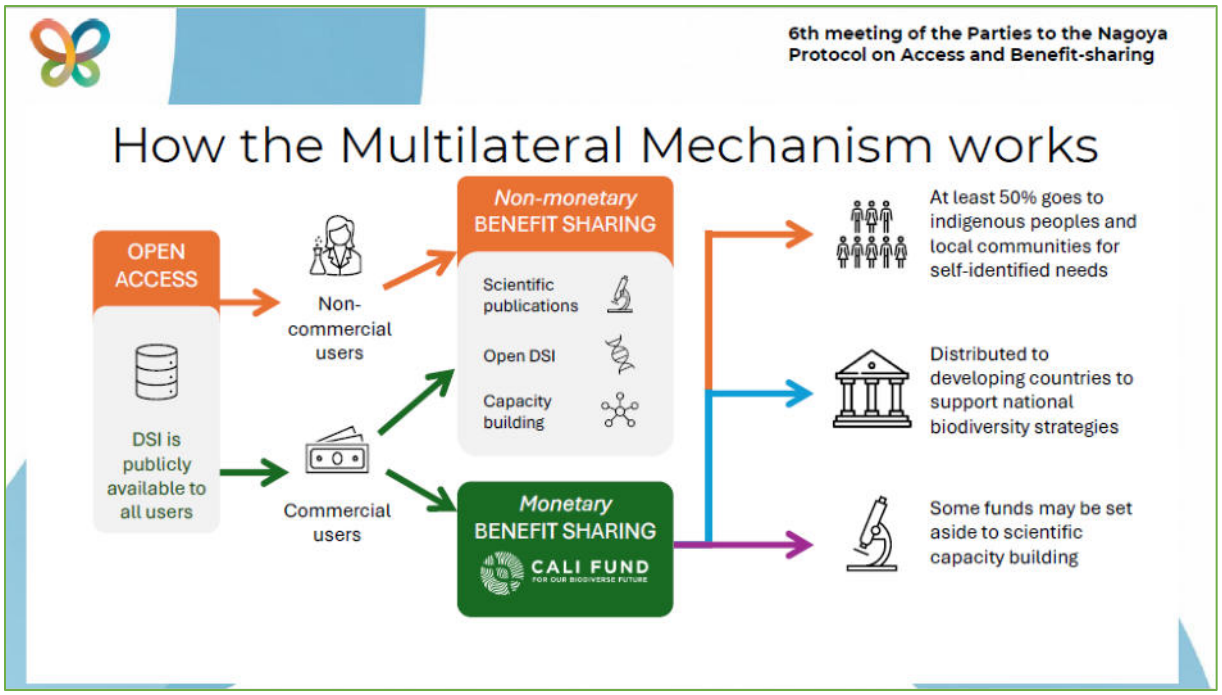
Annex 1: Presentation "Agenda Item 11: Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on genetic resources" by Charlotte Germain-Aubrey, SCBD

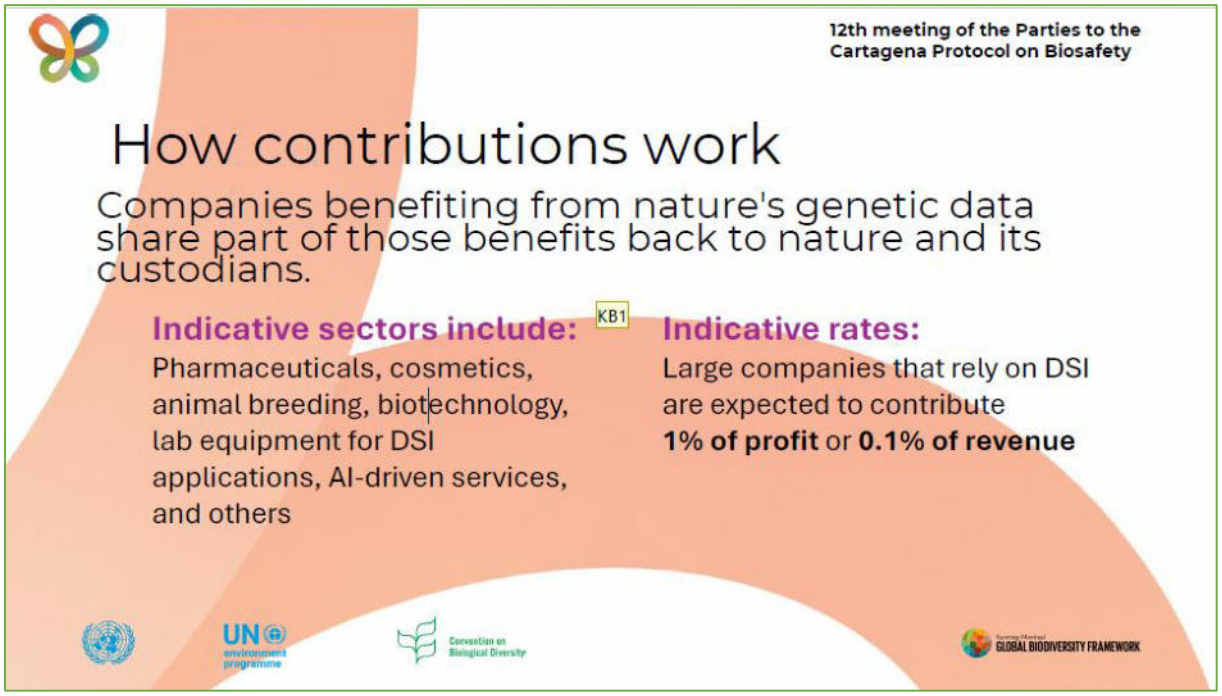




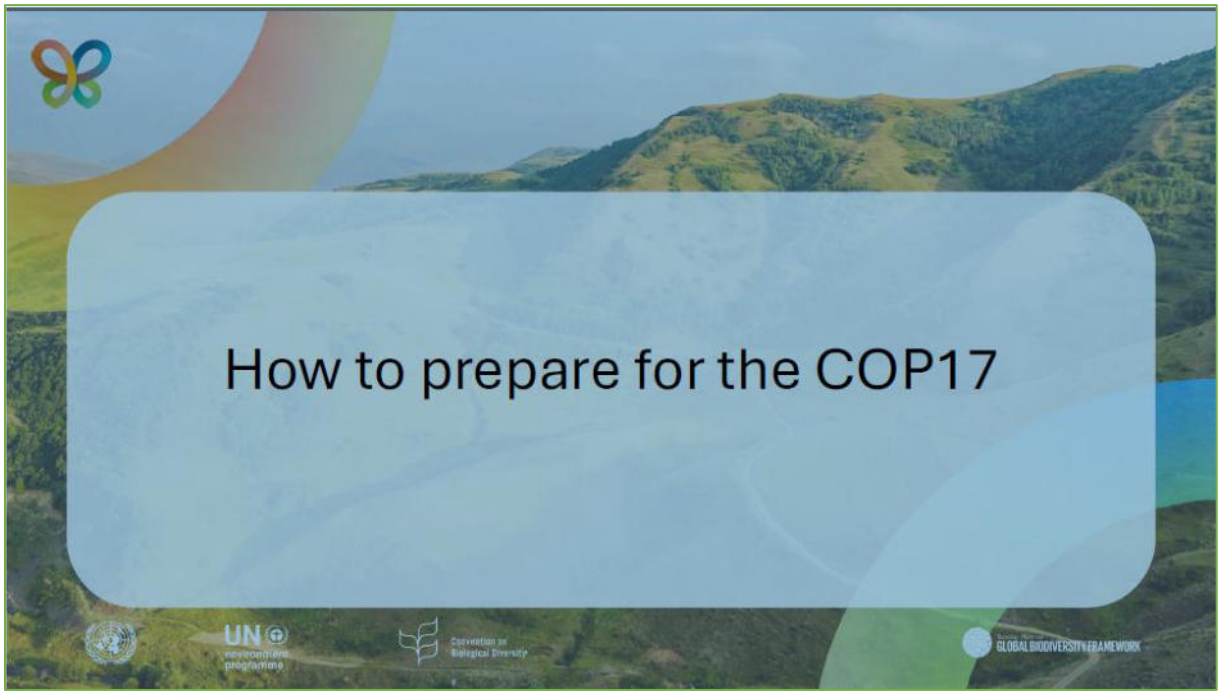

17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Decision 15/9 – the 'Geneva principles'
9. Also agrees that a solution for fair and equitable benefit-sharing on digital sequence information on genetic resources should, inter alia:
(a) Be efficient, feasible and practical;
(b) Generate more benefits, including both monetary and non-monetary, than costs;
(c) Be effective;
(d) Provide certainty and legal clarity for providers and users of digital sequence information on genetic resources;
(e) Not hinder research and innovation;
(f) Be consistent with open access to data;
(g) Not be incompatible with international legal obligations;
(h) Be mutually supportive of other access and benefit-sharing instruments;
(i) Take into account the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including with respect to the traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that they hold;
10. Recognizes that the monetary and non-monetary benefits arising from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources should, in particular, be used to support conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and, inter alia, benefit indigenous peoples and local communities;

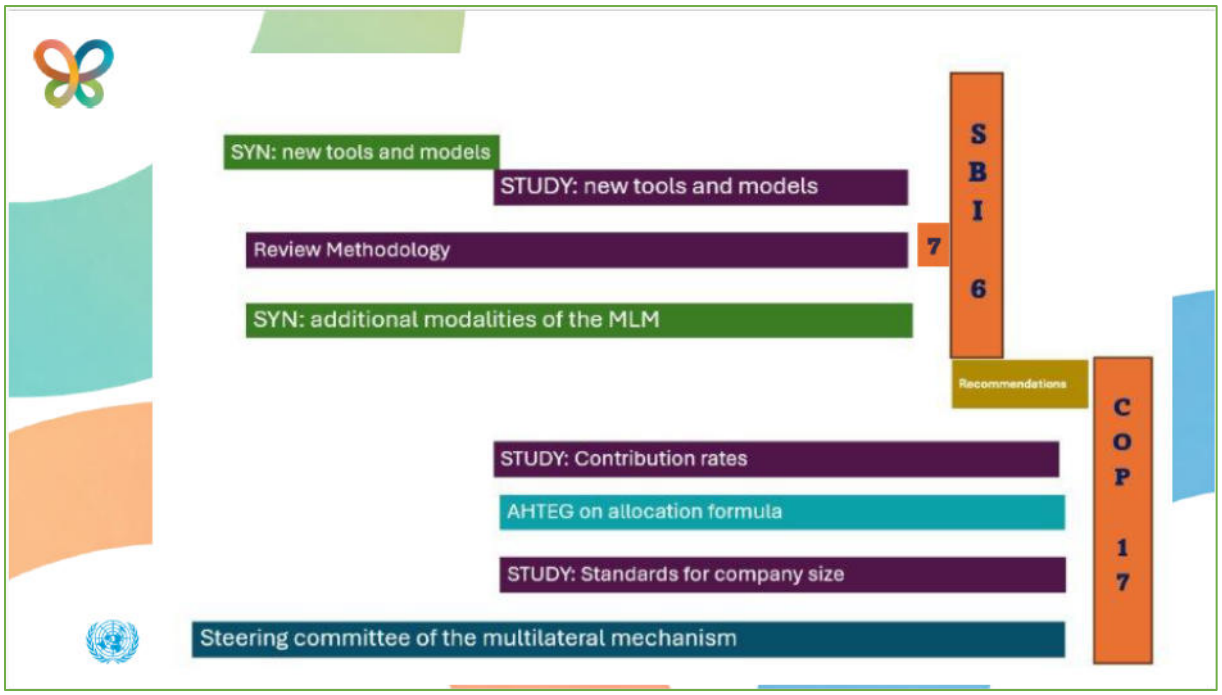

17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Decision 15/9 – the 'Geneva principles'
9. Also agrees that a solution for fair and equitable benefit-sharing on digital sequence information on genetic resources should, inter alia:
(a) Be efficient, feasible and practical;
(b) Generate more benefits, including both monetary and non-monetary, than costs;
(c) Be effective;
(d) Provide certainty and legal clarity for providers and users of digital sequence information on genetic resources;
(e) Not hinder research and innovation;
(f) Be consistent with open access to data;
(g) Not be incompatible with international legal obligations;
(h) Be mutually supportive of other access and benefit-sharing instruments;
(i) Take into account the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including with respect to the traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources that they hold;
10. Recognizes that the monetary and non-monetary benefits arising from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources should, in particular, be used to support conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and, inter alia, benefit indigenous peoples and local communities;


6th meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing
How the Multilateral Mechanism works
OPEN ACCESS
DSI is publicly available to all users
Non-commercial users
Commercial users
Non-monetary BENEFIT SHARING
Scientific publications
Open DSI
Capacity building
Monetary BENEFIT SHARING
CALI FUND
At least 50% goes to indigenous peoples and local communities for self-identified needs
Distributed to developing countries to support national biodiversity strategies
Some funds may be set aside to scientific capacity building

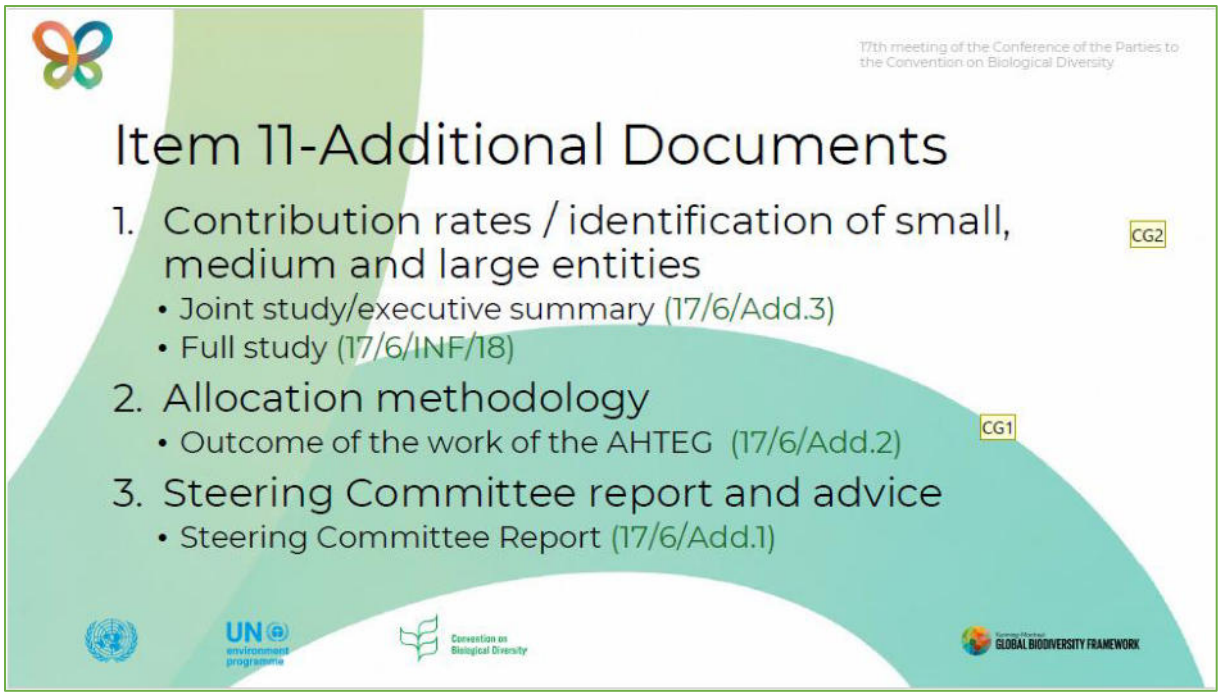

12th meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
How contributions work
Companies benefiting from nature's genetic data share part of those benefits back to nature and its custodians.
Indicative sectors include:
Pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, animal breeding, biotechnology, lab equipment for DSI applications, AI-driven services, and others
Indicative rates:
Large companies that rely on DSI are expected to contribute 1% of profit or 0.1% of revenue
UN environment programme
Convention on Biological Diversity
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

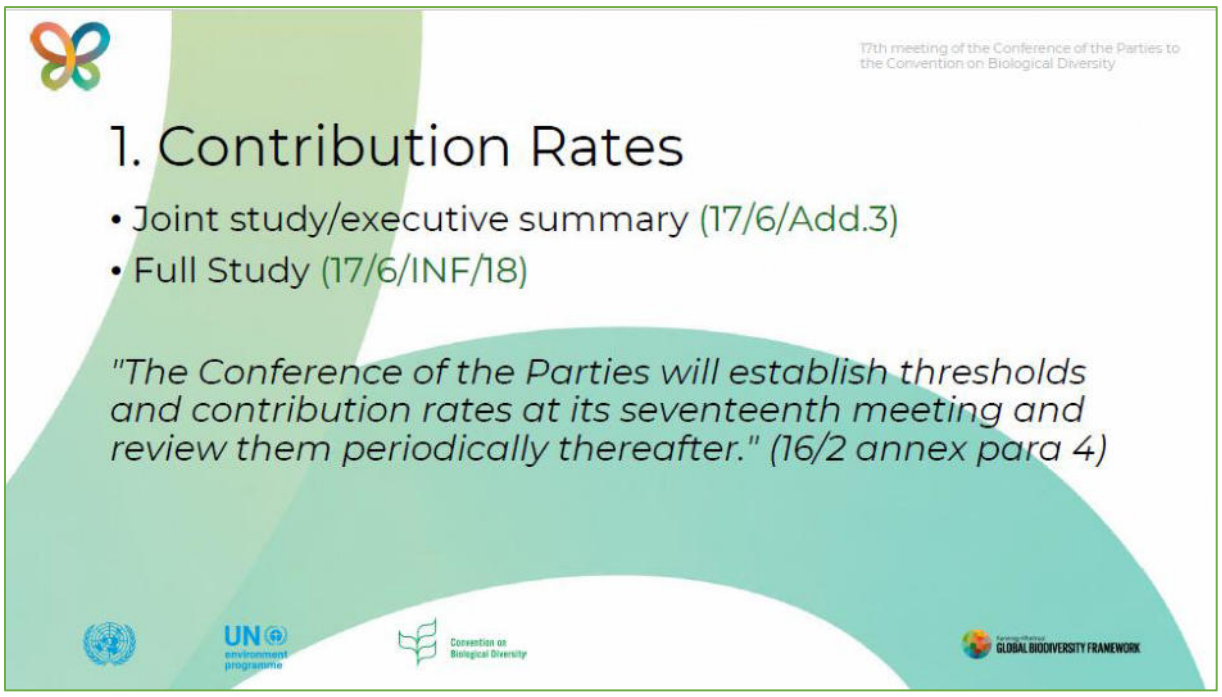

RDT1
Governance
The Cali Fund is currently led by a Steering Committee consisting of:
Governments
Indigenous peoples and local communities
Observers
15 members
6 members
6 observers
Three from each of five UN regions
One member each from six of the seven sociocultural regions
Two each from civil society, scientific institutions, and the private sector
Co-chair chosen from among them
Direct voice in the direction of the Fund
Perspectives from people who use DSI
Plus, representatives from two UN entities: CBD, UN Environment Programme and UN Development Programme
UN environment programme
Convention on Biological Diversity
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

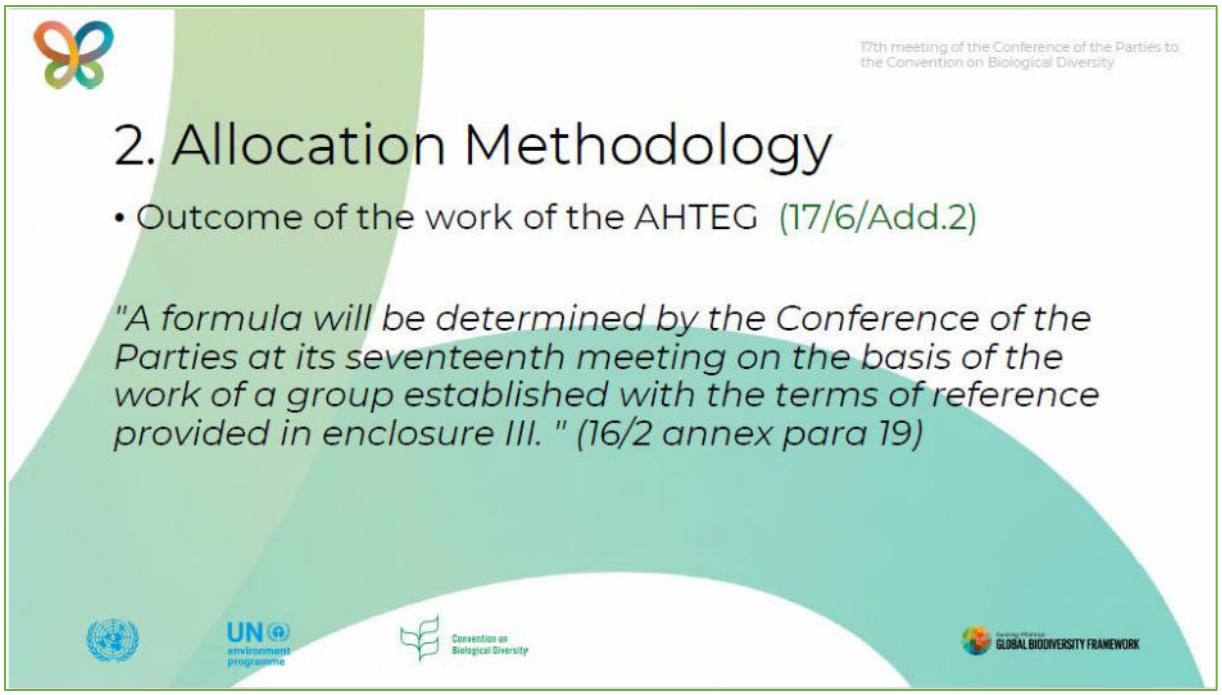

How to prepare for the COP17
UN environment programme
Convention on Biological Diversity
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK


SYN: new tools and models
STUDY: new tools and models
Review Methodology
SYN: additional modalities of the MLM
SBI 7
SBI 6
Recommendations
COP 17
STUDY: Contribution rates
AHTEG on allocation formula
STUDY: Standards for company size
Steering committee of the multilateral mechanism

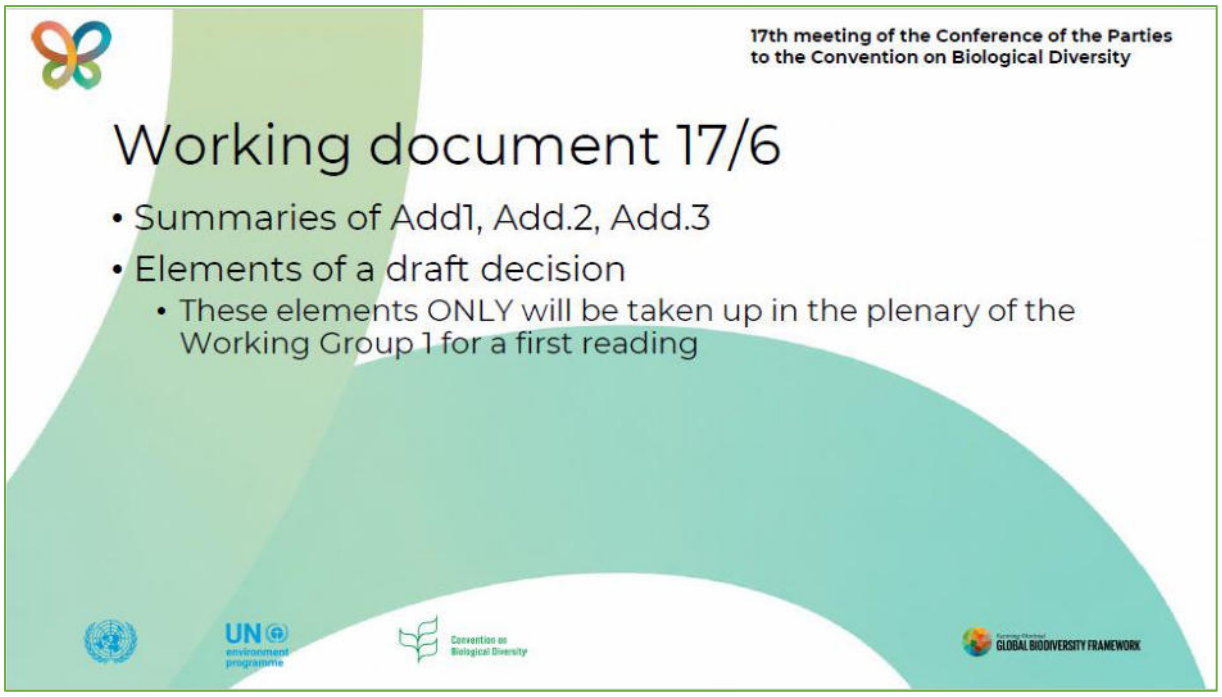

17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Item 11- Documents
Elements of a recommendation (CBD/COP/17/6) – first reading in WG1
+ SBI Recommendations (SBI Recommendation 7/4) - already had a reading in Nairobi
= Draft Decision in the compilation (item 11) CBD/COP/17/2
UN environment programme
Convention on Biological Diversity
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

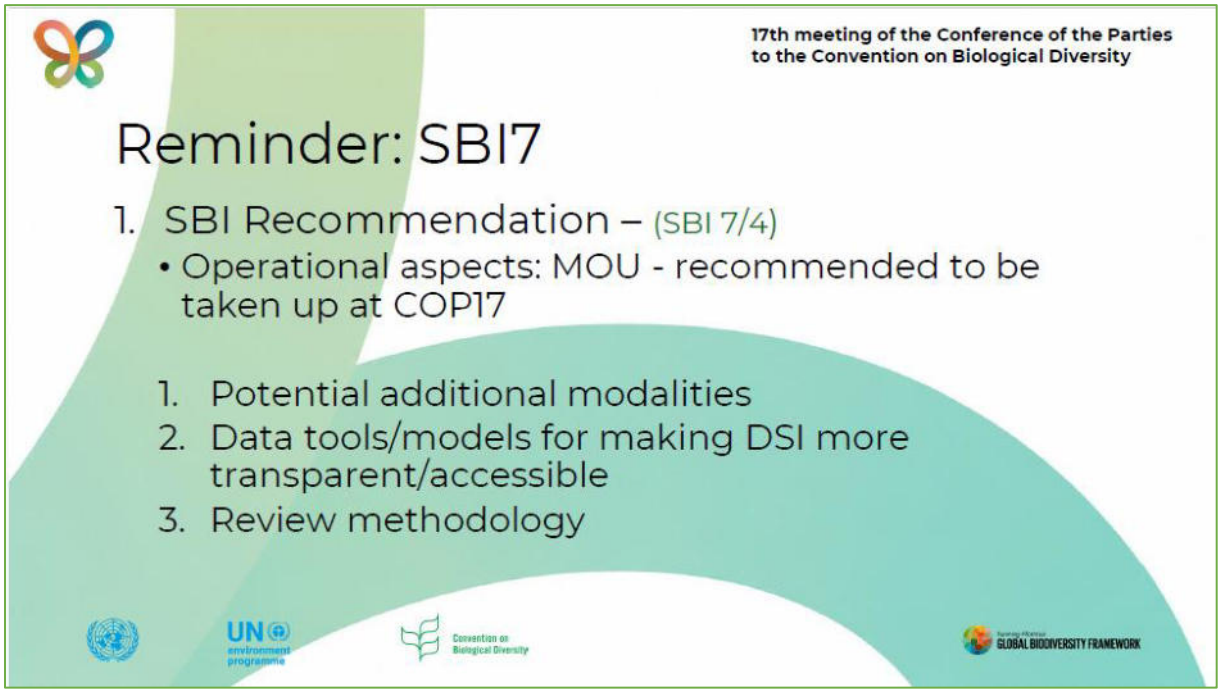

17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Item 11-Additional Documents
1. Contribution rates / identification of small, medium and large entities
CG2
• Joint study/executive summary (17/6/Add.3)
• Full study (17/6/INF/18)
2. Allocation methodology
• Outcome of the work of the AHTEG (17/6/Add.2)
CG1
3. Steering Committee report and advice
• Steering Committee Report (17/6/Add.1)
UN environment programme
Convention on Biological Diversity
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

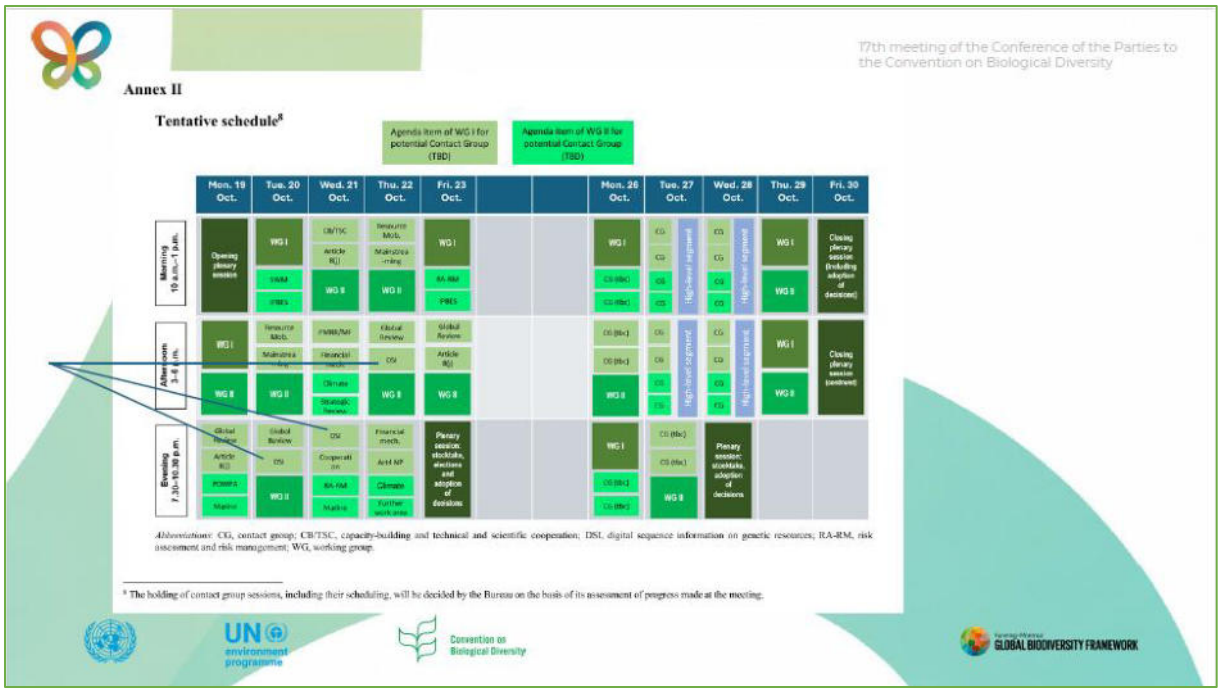

17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
1. Contribution Rates
• Joint study/executive summary (17/6/Add.3)
• Full Study (17/6/INF/18)
"The Conference of the Parties will establish thresholds and contribution rates at its seventeenth meeting and review them periodically thereafter." (16/2 annex para 4)
UN environment programme
Convention on Biological Diversity
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

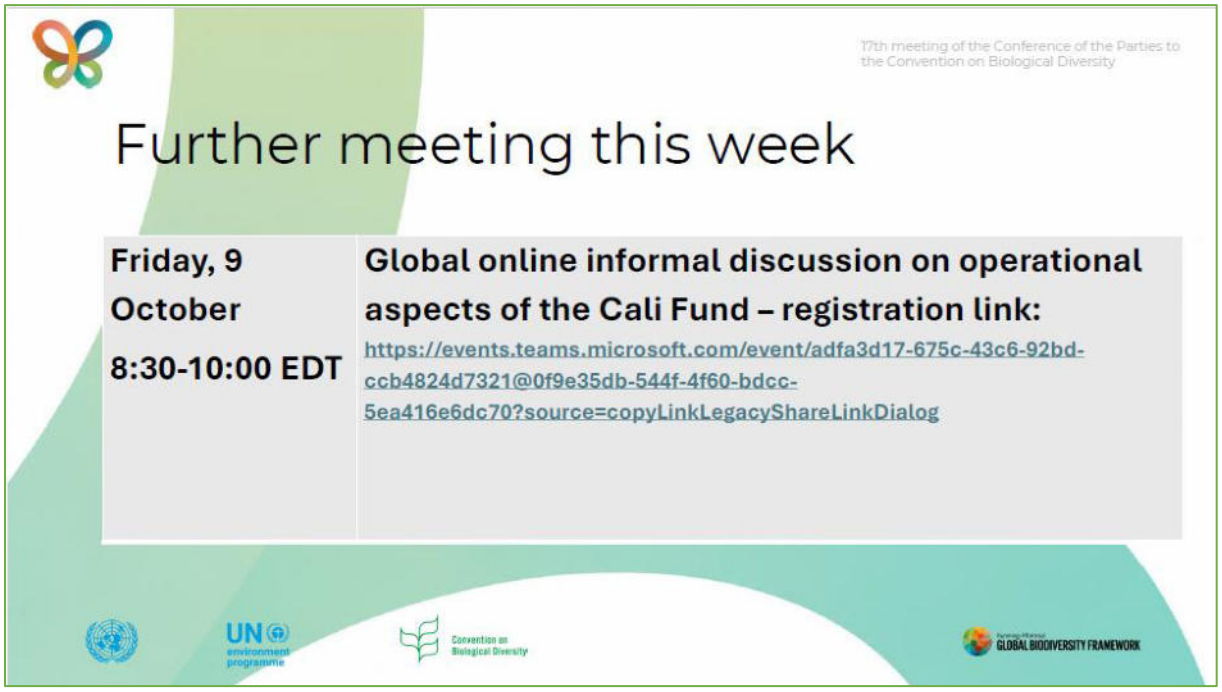

17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
2. Allocation Methodology
• Outcome of the work of the AHTEG (17/6/Add.2)
"A formula will be determined by the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth meeting on the basis of the work of a group established with the terms of reference provided in enclosure III. " (16/2 annex para 19)
UN environment programme
Convention on Biological Diversity
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK


17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
3. Steering Committee Report
• Steering Committee Report (17/6/Add.1)
• Rule 11-Terms of Office
• Certificates
• Non-monetary Benefit Sharing
• Enabling Conditions
• and more!
"Report and provide advice to the Conference of the Parties" (Enclosure IV of 16/2)
UN environment programme
Convention on Biological Diversity
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK


17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties
to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Working document 17/6
• Summaries of Add1, Add.2, Add.3
• Elements of a draft decision
• These elements ONLY will be taken up in the plenary of the Working Group 1 for a first reading
UN environment programme
Convention on Biological Diversity
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK


17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties
to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Reminder: SBI7
1. SBI Recommendation – (SBI 7/4)
• Operational aspects: MOU - recommended to be taken up at COP17
1. Potential additional modalities
2. Data tools/models for making DSI more transparent/accessible
3. Review methodology
UN environment programme
Convention on Biological Diversity
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK


17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Annex II
Tentative schedule[a]
Agenda item of WG I for potential Contact Group (TBD)
Agenda item of WG II for potential Contact Group (TBD)
Mon. 19 Oct.
Tue. 20 Oct.
Wed. 21 Oct.
Thu. 22 Oct.
Fri. 23 Oct.
Mon. 26 Oct.
Tue. 27 Oct.
Wed. 28 Oct.
Thu. 29 Oct.
Fri. 30 Oct.
Morning 10 a.m.–1 p.m.
Afternoon 3–6 p.m.
Evening 7.30–10.30 p.m.
Opening plenary session
WG I
WG II
Plenary session: stocktake, elections and adoption of decisions
Closing plenary session (including adoption of decisions)
Closing plenary session (continued)
High-level segment
Abbreviations: CG, contact group; CB/TSC, capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation; DSI, digital sequence information on genetic resources; RA-RM, risk assessment and risk management; WG, working group.
[a] The holding of contact group sessions, including their scheduling, will be decided by the Bureau on the basis of its assessment of progress made at the meeting.
UN environment programme
Convention on Biological Diversity
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

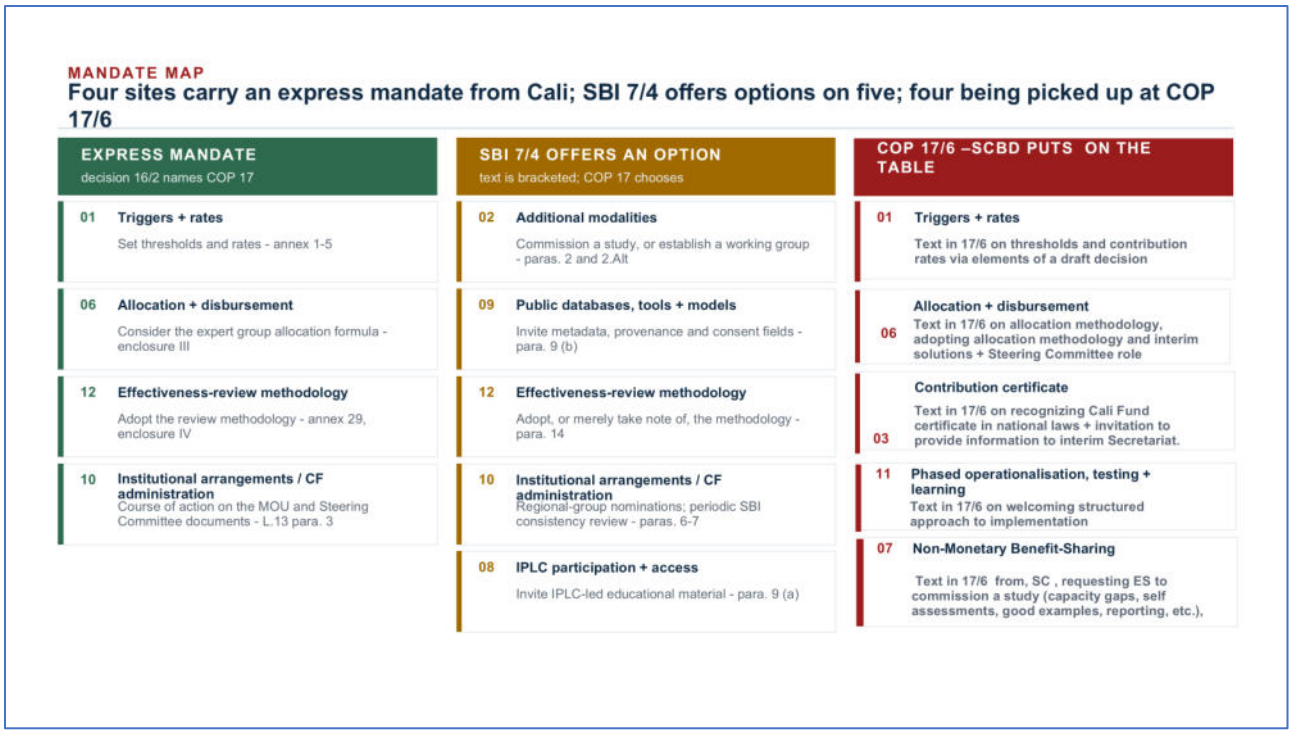

17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Further meeting this week
Friday, 9 October
8:30-10:00 EDT
Global online informal discussion on operational aspects of the Cali Fund – registration link:
https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/adfa3d17-675c-43c6-92bd-ccb4824d7321@0f9e35db-544f-4f60-bdcc-5ea416e6dc70?source=copyLinkLegacyShareLinkDialog
UN environment programme
Convention on Biological Diversity
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK


UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE
TAKING ACTION FOR NATURE
COP17 / CP-MOP 12 / NP-MOP 6
YEREVAN ARMENIA
19-30 OCTOBER 2026
Thank you!
Charlotte.Germain-Aubrey@un.org
UN environment programme
Convention on Biological Diversity
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Annex 2: Presentation "Landscape of construction sites and potential solution pathways" by Suhel al Janabi, GeoMedia






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.),


Leuven II – Informal Negotiators' Dialogue, 23–25 Sept 2026
Who and how
• Organised by the DSI Informal Dialogue Partnership (GeoMedia, CCC Mexico)
• On behalf of the European Commission and Norway
• 20+ key negotiators from all regions, plus experts and UN secretariats
• 35 invited participants, Chatham House Rule
• Preceded by a two-day Stake- and Rightsholders' Exchange (Industry/IPLC/Civil Society Research)
Agenda
• Day 1: Relay of stake- and rightsholder messages
• Updates on the formal (SCBD) and informal process
• Mapping construction sites to COP mandates
• Group work on COP 17 solution pathways and landing zones
• Plenary on common ground; closing
Informal Negotiators' Dialogue on DSI and the Cali Fund · Leuven II

Relay: Messages from stake- and rightsholders

Industry

- Support a **workable multilateral solution**
- **Certificate** must give full **legal certainty**, no stacking
- Contributions **proportionate** to value from direct DSI use
- Clarify **key terms** (indicative, entity, indirect use, ..) i.e relevant to scope
- Inclusive, time-bound **intersessional process** to COP 18

IPLCs/CSOs and mixed groups

- **Certificates** as incentive to contribute
- **Legal provenance** information from all DSI uploaders
- Prioritise **direct access** for biodiversity stewards
- **Time-bound flexibility** to test the MLM with the SC
- Explain **'indicative rate'**; align ABS instruments over UN Fora

Informal Negotiators' Dialogue on DSI and the Cali Fund · Leuven II

Main suggestions from Leuven's group work



1 Allocation	2 Governance	3 Sandbox	4 Proportionality	5 Certificates
• 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 ?	• Not reopening 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	• **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")	• **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**	• 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)


Thank you !
www.geo-media.de/dsi-informal-dialogues
CALI FUND
Informal Dialogue
Funded by:
Norway
Implemented by:
GeoMedia