

Outline:
**Reflection meeting on the
Global Multilateral Benefit Sharing Mechanism
hosted by the
FRIDTJOF NANSEN INSTITUTE
Lysaker (Norway) – 24. - 25.March 2011**

One of the global mechanisms proposed for the implementation of the Nagoya ABS-Protocol is a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism (GMBSM). Article 10 of the Protocol instructs Parties to consider the need for and modalities of a GMBSM to address the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the utilisation of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and traditional knowledge that occur in **transboundary situations** or for which it is **not possible to grant or obtain Prior Informed Consent**. It is envisaged that benefits generated through the GMBSM will be both used for ABS capacity building related activities as well for promoting the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components on a global scale.

Against this background, African countries have started engaging in discussions on the path forward as to how Article 10 can be elaborated and implemented. The ABS Capacity Building Initiative has been approached for supporting such discussions, and the Norwegian Fridtjof Nansen Institute has been asked to host an informal discussion meeting and to provide technical input during the meeting and in its aftermath in elaborating an analytical report on the proceedings of the meeting. The report of the meeting will be submitted as an information document to the SCBD for the first meeting of the intergovernmental committee of the Nagoya Protocol. The results will also be presented at a side event at the first meeting.

The meeting will bring together key African negotiators as well as negotiators from other regions such as Asia, Europe and Latin America. Furthermore representatives from the private sector, donor agencies (i.e. partners of the ABS Initiative) as well as from international organisations involved in ABS implementation (SCBD, GEF, UNEP) will be invited. Participants will be invited to attend in their individual capacities in the meeting that will be held under Chatham house rules. The Government of Norway will sponsor travel and accommodation costs for participants from developing countries.

The meeting will be structured around the following indicative themes:

Introductory session

- General introduction to the GMBSM: Why was the concept born - and how the idea emerged during the negotiations?
- *Food for Thought* : overview on selected existing Multilateral Financial Funds and Mechanisms.

Reflection session and dialogue on key questions such as i.e. :

- What would be the trigger points in the GMBSM: what would trigger an obligation to contribute into the Mechanism?
- What should be the institutional set up of the fund - who and how will it be administered, where will it be housed; it's potential relationship with the Clearing House Mechanism of the Protocol?
- What are the procedures for making contributions to the mechanism from private and public sectors i.e. benefit-sharing, voluntary contributions, financial and non-financial contributions to the mechanism?
- How may the funds in the mechanism be used, who will decide on the beneficiaries (governance of the mechanism)?
- What are the types of projects that could be supported under the mechanism?