



Points raised during the English webinar on the topic:

**Introduction and overall options to implement ABS** held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020

1. Points raised after the presentation on “*GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE AFRICAN UNION GUIDELINES FOR THE COORDINATED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL IN AFRICA*” held by *Pierre du Plessis*

- Though progress towards the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol (NP) is not often reported on the ABS Clearing House, implementation processes have been initiated and are ongoing in many countries.
- The AU Guidelines (Guidelines) represent a consensus endorsed by the highest decision-making body of the African Union.
- Some countries have used the Guidelines to inform national measures for the implementation of the NP while others did not take them into account. We do not have data/ statistics as to how many countries have used the Guidelines during their national implementation processes. Gathering this data would require further investigation.
- The Guidelines try to build on the flexibilities provided in the NP to better reflect African priorities in implementing the NP.
- The Guidelines provide a framework that countries can use, adapt and tailor to their national circumstances.
- The Guidelines include and reflect feedback and inputs from traditional knowledge holders and IPLCs.
- Visualization of AU guidelines and other approaches will be part of the next webinar.
- A call was made to encourage more countries to use the Voluntary Peer Review (VPR) process on ABS

2. Points raised after the presentation on “*Introduction to the ABS Initiative ‘s discussion paper ABS Implementation Options*” held by *Suhel al-Janabi*

- The full Discussion Paper can be accessed [here](#).
- The document was presented and discussed at the 12<sup>th</sup> Pan-African ABS Workshop that took place in Cape Town in September 2019. The document has also been disseminated through the ABS News Digest and via the ABS Initiative website.
- The Initiative hopes that the document will continue to be used by a broader audience.
- More detailed discussions about advantages and disadvantages of the proposed options in national circumstances are needed when using the publication during the process of setting up/revising national ABS systems.

- There are specific topics that are not reflected in the document (e.g. endangered species), but that might, according to national circumstances, need a deeper discussion at national level.
- Not every relevant subset of ABS implementation-related topics could be reflected in the document, which is by no means a statement about their merit or relevance. National reflection is needed on a country by country basis.

Links:

*ABS Implementation Options, available under:* [http://www.abs-initiative.info/fileadmin/media/Knowledge\\_Center/Publications/Implementation\\_Options/Collection\\_-\\_Implementation\\_Options\\_-\\_ABS-I\\_-\\_201909.pdf](http://www.abs-initiative.info/fileadmin/media/Knowledge_Center/Publications/Implementation_Options/Collection_-_Implementation_Options_-_ABS-I_-_201909.pdf)

*Guide - Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources (DSI) - An Introductory Guide for African Policymakers and Stakeholders, available under:* [http://www.abs-initiative.info/fileadmin//media/Knowledge\\_Center/Publications/DSI/Introductory\\_Guide\\_-\\_DSI\\_-\\_ABS\\_Initiative\\_-\\_FR\\_-\\_201908.pdf](http://www.abs-initiative.info/fileadmin//media/Knowledge_Center/Publications/DSI/Introductory_Guide_-_DSI_-_ABS_Initiative_-_FR_-_201908.pdf)

*Vilm ABS Dialogue 2017 – Informing about Domestic Measures for Access to Genetic Resources, available under:* <https://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/BfN/service/Dokumente/skripten/Skript485.pdf>

*Vilm ABS Dialogue 2018 – Informing about Domestic Measures for Access to Genetic Resources, available under:* <https://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/BfN/service/Dokumente/skripten/Skript524.pdf>

*List of ITPGRFA member states, available under:* <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/countries/membership/en/>