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Annex

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Ref.: SCBD/OES/AD/DK/62144  6 February 2008

Subject: Request for information from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding back to back meetings

Dear Mr. Cooper,

I refer to your correspondence of 1 February 2008 and the information requested of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) by the second meeting of the ad hoc joint working group on cooperation and coordination between the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, regarding experience in organizing back to back meetings.

The organization of back-to-back meetings has been systematically adopted by the CBD. For example, meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol are usually held back to back with the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (MOP-4) and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-9), which will be held this year in Bonn, Germany from 11 - 30 May, will be no exception. Similarly, meetings of the Working Group on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and of the Working Group on Article 8 (j) are usually held back-to-back; the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) meetings are paired with meetings of the Working Group on Protected areas or with the Working Group on the Review of Implementation, etc.

In short, there is a pattern of pairing meetings under the CBD. The organization of thematically related back to back meetings has allowed the SCBD to streamline our organizational and logistics process and achieve important savings estimated at approximately US $100,000 – US $150,000.

Mr. Donald Cooper
Co-Executive Secretary
Secretariat for the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
11-13, Chemin des Anémones
CH – 219 Châtelaine, Geneva
The Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on Cooperation and Coordination of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions may be interested in an information document that the SCBD will circulate to COP 9 later this year on the periodicity of meetings and organization of work of the COP.

Yours sincerely,

Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary