

Dr Amber Hartman Scholz selected for Steering Committee of Multilateral Mechanism on Digital Sequence Information/UN CBD

BRAUNSCHWEIG, GERMANY, April 28, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Dr. Amber Hartman Scholz, Head of the Department of Science Policy and Internationalization at the Leibniz Institute DSMZ-German Culture Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures GmbH, has been selected to represent scientific institutions on the Steering Committee of the Multilateral Mechanism for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources (MLM) - including a Global Fund. The Contracting Parties to the UN Convention on Biological



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Diversity (CBD) established this new international mechanism in 2022 (Decision 15/9) and agreed on its modalities (Decision 16/2) at their 16th meeting (COP16), in Cali, Colombia, in 2024. The MLM aims to fund global efforts on biodiversity conservation by sharing the monetary and non-monetary benefits generated by the use of Digital Sequence Information (DSI), publicly available on global databases. DSI is a policy term referring to genetic sequence data and other related digital biological data such as DNA, RNA, protein and metabolite data.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) received 95 nominations for the Steering Committee. These included 46 individuals nominated by 37 parties, 16 from Indigenous Peoples and local communities, as well as 32 from observers across various sectors: 11 from the scientific community, six from the private sector, 14 from civil society, and one from another UN organization. The Steering Committee will oversee the operations of the Cali Fund, ensuring the fair and equitable disbursement of funds. It will also provide guidance to the SCBD, report to the Conference of the Parties (COP) and advise on the development of methodologies to assess the

mechanism's effectiveness, including the establishment of indicators aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework that aims to halt and reverse nature loss. A DSMZ-led /ET-NMBS project has already contributed towards the establishment of such indicators (<https://doi.org/10.1093/biosci/biae132>).

Open Digital Sequence Information

At COP16, a major victory for the academic sector was the alignment of the mechanism with the open and unrestricted way in which scientists access and use Digital Sequence Information. This alignment ensures that biodiversity genetic data and other molecular data will remain accessible for public research purposes without major disruptions to the scientific ecosystem (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.patter.2025.101208>).

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About the Leibniz Institute DSMZ

The Leibniz Institute DSMZ-German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures is the world's most diverse collection of biological resources (bacteria, archaea, protists, yeasts, fungi, bacteriophages, plant viruses, genomic bacterial DNA as well as human and animal cell lines). Microorganisms and cell cultures are collected, investigated and archived at the DSMZ. As an institution of the Leibniz Association, the DSMZ with its extensive scientific services and biological resources has been a global partner for research, science and industry since 1969. The DSMZ was the first registered collection in Europe (Regulation (EU) No. 511/2014) and is certified according to the quality standard ISO 9001:2015. As a patent depository, it offers the only possibility in Germany to deposit biological material in accordance with the requirements of the Budapest Treaty. In addition to scientific services, research is the second pillar of the DSMZ. The institute, located on the Science Campus Braunschweig-Süd, accommodates more than 90,000 bioresources and has almost 230 employees. www.dsmz.de

The Leibniz Association

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