

**Civil Society Organisations' Statement on Access
ABSWG-8, Montreal, Canada - 10 Nov 2009**

Mr. Co-Chairs, Dear Party Delegates,

I speak on behalf of the Civil Society Organisations present at this meeting.

We would like to stress that we see the use of genetic resources and traditional knowledge as inseparable. The Hyderabad expert meeting has deliberated on these issues extensively and provided its useful report to this meeting. Therefore, we would like to support the respective statement made by the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB).

We are of the opinion that the ABS Protocol must deal with access to genetic resources and access to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources on the same level. To establish such a comparable level of legal standing, we suggest that throughout the text, the wording should always read: *"access to genetic resources or access to traditional knowledge associated to genetic resources"*.

Thank you very much, Co-Chairs