

Operationalizing the Multilateral Mechanism for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, including the Cali Fund: Invitation to submit relevant information and updates on actions to give effect to decision 16/2

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Government submission

Since the adoption of CBD Decision 16/2 on Digital Sequence Information (DSI) on Genetic Resources, the UK Government has taken forward a broad set of actions to support implementation of the multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism, including the Cali Fund, domestically and internationally. Given contributions to the Cali Fund are voluntary for UK-based users of DSI, our efforts have focused on non-regulatory approaches that build awareness, trust, and incentives for participation, and include the following activities:

Engagement with the private sector

During London Climate Action Week 2025, the UK convened leaders from the private sector, governments, Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs), and other stakeholders for discussions on nature finance. Benefit-sharing, including through the Cali Fund, was a central theme, and as part of the event, the UK and Chile co-launched the *Friends of the Cali Fund*. The programme concluded with a reception hosted by His Majesty the King and subsequently led to the establishment of a *Nature Finance Action Group*. The mandate of this group, amongst other issues, was to explore and develop the business case for contributions to the Cali Fund. This group will share outcomes from its work later in 2026.

The UK continues to engage business through several channels, including the parallel stakeholder programme and the Business and Finance Day at IPBES-12, hosted in Manchester, UK, in February 2026. The landmark *Business and Biodiversity Assessment* highlighted the Cali Fund and underscored the important role of business in supporting fair and equitable benefit-sharing.

Alongside these initiatives, the UK maintains an ongoing dialogue with individual companies, trade associations, and wider networks such as the *UK Business and Biodiversity Forum*. This sustained engagement has already delivered tangible results: the Cali Fund received its first private sector contribution from a UK company, TerraViva AI. While this represents an important early milestone, we recognise that the long-term success of the multilateral mechanism will depend on deepening trust and strengthening collaboration between governments and the private sector.

International leadership through the Friends of the Cali Fund

Alongside Chile, the UK initiated and launched the *Friends of the Cali Fund* in June 2025. The group of Friends is a multilateral partnership of governments – and, in time,

private sector actors - committed to the effective implementation of the Fund, and open to any government that wishes to join our efforts.

To date, the UK has supported the organisation of the group by convening regular coordination meetings and preparing discussion papers. The UK hosted a ministerial dinner in the margins of UNEA-7 to help build political momentum and we are now considering next steps, including issuing a joint statement and convening strategic dialogues between businesses and governments.

Actions relating to sequence databases

In relation to paragraphs 10–11 of the Annex to Decision 16/2, Defra has undertaken a desk review to identify which databases may fall within the scope of the Decision, with a particular focus on those hosted in the UK.

As part of this work, Defra has taken efforts to better understand current database operations and is developing a technical survey for relevant database operators. The survey will raise awareness among database owners as well as identify existing practices and gaps in aligning with the Decision. Defra will issue this survey in early Spring and will invite respondents to a roundtable discussion to build on their feedback and work towards consensus on next steps.

Ensuring coherence across international forums

The UK recognises the importance of implementing the multilateral mechanism in a way that is mutually supportive of, and adaptive to, other international access and benefit-sharing instruments, and is working to ensure alignment across international forums and processes.