

Decision 2006/1

Data availability under the convention

The Executive Body,

Intent on implementing article 7 (Research and development) and article 8 (Exchange of information) of the Convention, and mindful of article 5 (Public awareness) of the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol,

Bearing in mind that sharing of scientific and technical knowledge has been essential for the agreement and implementation of protocols and believing that future development of the Convention will rely upon output from its scientific and technical bodies,

Acknowledging the important contributions made by the lead Parties and programme centres of the Convention to its scientific and technical programmes,

Stressing the need for Parties to submit their national data to the secretariat or programme centres and to contribute to the scientific and technical work of the Convention, and urging Parties to continue their efforts to this end,

Affirming that the Convention's use of scientific and technical data should be open and transparent to all,

Noting, however, that issues such as intellectual property rights and commercial restrictions may affect the availability of some national data,

1. *Decides* that scientific and technical data submitted by Parties or their national focal centres shall be publicly available at programme centres, unless:
 - (a) A Party or one of its national focal centres provides a reason why data release is delayed; or
 - (b) The Executive Body or one of its main subsidiary bodies decides that it is not timely to release the data;
2. *Invites* any Party, national focal point or Convention body that indicates data release should be delayed, to indicate what it considers an appropriate time for the data's release;
3. *Recognizes* that when a programme centre is requested to provide certain data sets or data formats that are not readily available, it may need to charge the recipient for preparing the data;
4. *Requests* that programme centres make efforts to ensure that data users give due acknowledgement to the Convention and/or its bodies as well as, where appropriate, to providers of original data.