

DRAFT

STATEMENT ON GEF FUNDING AMOUNT FOR IABIN

The representatives of xx countries from the Americas, in this joint meeting of the Clearing House Mechanism of the CBD and IABIN, wish to thank the GEF for their support of the preparation of the IABIN Project and of this meeting. As a result of this meeting we see the great potential value of the IABIN Project to building the CHM in the GRULAC countries by helping to build capacity in individual countries (CHM Focal Points) and cooperation among countries of the hemisphere. Therefore, we are concerned that the suggested project amount of \$4 to \$5 million fails to capture the potential for the launching of a project of this scope and importance. Although allowing for a basic start-up of the IABIN network, a project of the approved amount fails to capture the potential of a great many critical partnerships. To date, over xx different institutions and countries have signed a formal cost-sharing agreement (see full list in an attachment to this motion; many more are pending) indicating their willingness to commit significant parallel funding to IABIN, to a total amount of about \$xx million. The present amount of the proposed GEF allocation will not allow the project to take full advantage of a great many opportunities to jump-start biological information management and use in the countries of the Americas. We note that the critical importance of management of biological information has been repeatedly emphasized in CBD meetings and decisions.

Furthermore, we view the 1:4 co-financing requirements imposed by the GEF for this project to be unfair and unprecedented and should be reevaluated.

Therefore, the following is resolved:

Resolved, that the World Bank request that the GEF increase the amount of the proposed IABIN project to \$10 million of GEF funds, for a total project amount of about \$20 million with parallel financing.