Declaration

I declare that the thesis entitled “International Initiatives for Regulating Access to Genetic Resources” for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy is the record of bonafide research carried out by me under the guidance and supervision of Prof. (Dr.) N. S. Gopalakrishnan, Director, Inter University Centre for Intellectual Property Rights Studies, School of Legal Studies, CUSAT. I further declare that this work has not previously formed the basis of the award of any degree, diploma, associate-ship or any other title or recognition.

Cochin Prabha S. Nair
26/08/2011
Preface

Demand for property rights over biological diversity and its constituent elements is a continuing international debate from the past three decades. Contractual regulation of access to biological resources and associated traditional knowledge recognising the right to get compensated is the central theme of the debate. Though the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992 legally materialised the notion of property in biological resources, the equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization remains a dream far from reality due to a number of outstanding issues to be resolved internationally. It was the complexity of the issues involved that attracted my attention while selecting this topic for my doctoral thesis. The timely interventions of my supervising guide Prof. Dr. N. S. Gopalakrishnan helped me a lot to correctly focus upon the intricacies involved in this area.

At this moment of the fruitful accomplishment of the targeted study, I would like to first place on record, my profound gratitude to Prof. Dr. N. S. Gopalakrishnan, my Supervising Guide, who was always there with me during all my frustrations, both academic and personal. His academic interventions sharpened my thoughts, understandings and attitudes towards the topic while his personal interventions were a major driving force for me to complete this task.

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