

Montreal, 27 October 1999

Dear Madam/Sir:

Pursuant to decision IV/16 paragraph 12 of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure for the meetings of the Convention, I am pleased to inform you that the fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) will be held in Montreal, Canada from 31 January to 4 February 2000, back-to-back with the Resumed Session of the First Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to finalize and adopt a Protocol on Biosafety.

I have the honour to invite your Government to be represented at this meeting. In order to facilitate our preparations for this meeting, I would be grateful if you could advise the Secretariat of the name and contact address of the designated representative(s) of your Government as soon as possible but no later than 6 December 1999.

Subject to the availability of contributions in the Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BZ) established by Decision IV/17 for facilitating participation of Parties in the Convention process, the Secretariat will be in a position to finance the participation of one representative from each of the developing countries Party to the Convention, in particular, the least developed countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition.

Please find attached the provisional agenda for the meeting as well as a pre-registration form and a general information note for Participants and other pre-session documents.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To all National Focal Points of the CBD

