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NOTIFICATION

Biosafety Clearing-House Questionnaire

As you may be aware, Article 20 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity establishes a Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) as part of the clearing-house mechanism under Article 18, paragraph 3, of the Convention, in order to facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on, and experience with, living modified organisms; and to assist Parties to implement the Protocol.

In paragraph 12 of Decision BS-I/3, the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol decided to review the implementation of the BCH at its second meeting, and requested the Executive Secretary to submit a progress report to that meeting, with a view to developing a longer-term programme of work for the Biosafety Clearing-House.

As part of this review, the Secretariat is seeking views of BCH users through a questionnaire developed for this purpose. We would like to receive as many responses as possible to the questionnaire, so please distribute this notification widely among your colleagues. The questionnaire is available in hard-copy or electronically from the Secretariat at bch@biodiv.org, or via the BCH website address: <http://bch.biodiv.org/survey.aspx>, where it can be completed online, or downloaded in PDF format or as a MS Word document.

Please note that the questionnaire will remain open for submissions until **Friday, 17 September 2004**. If you wish to send comments to the Secretariat without completing the questionnaire, please e-mail them directly to bch@biodiv.org, or send them by hard copy to the Secretariat before the closing date.

Yours sincerely,

[SIGNED]

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

cc: Cartagena Protocol National Focal Points
BCH National and Institutional Focal Points
CBD National Focal Points (where biosafety focal points have not yet been designated)

