



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIODIVERSITY
PROTECT BIODIVERSITY IN DRYLANDS

**22 May
2006**



ACHIEVING THE 2010 TARGET!

Ref.: SCBD/BS/ET/jh/54978

31 May 2006

NOTIFICATION

Request for Submission of Views and Suggestions on the Criteria and Minimum Requirements for Experts to be Nominated to the Roster of Biosafety Experts as well as Views on a Possible Quality Control Mechanism for the Roster

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to convey to you a copy of the decision BS-III/4 on Capacity-Building (Roster of Experts), which was adopted by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP/3) held from 13 to 17 March 2006 in Curitiba, Brazil. A copy of the full report of the meeting is available on the website of the CBD Secretariat at <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=MOP-03>.

I would like, in particular, to draw your attention to paragraph 3 of the decision in which Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations are invited to submit to the Secretariat views and suggestions on the criteria and minimum requirements for experts to be nominated to the Roster of Biosafety Experts as well as views on a possible quality control mechanism for the Roster.

Please also note that in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the same decision, the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building for Biosafety is requested to develop, for consideration at the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, draft criteria and minimum requirements for experts to be included in the roster and to explore the possibility of establishing a quality control mechanism for the roster.

The Executive Secretary is also requested to prepare, on the basis of above-mentioned submissions, a synthesis report for consideration by the Liaison Group. Pursuant to that decision, the next meeting of the Liaison Group, tentatively scheduled to take place in the first quarter of 2007, is expected to consider the issue of the Roster of Experts.

In view of the above decision, I would like to invite you to submit your views and suggestions to the Secretariat as soon as possible, but **no later than 1 November 2006**, in order to enable us to prepare a synthesis report to assist the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building for Biosafety in its deliberations.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your support to the work of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and look forward to our continued cooperation.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

To: Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) National Focal Points
CBD National Focal Points (where CPB focal points have not yet been designated)
Relevant Organizations

Enclosures



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Decision BS-III/4. Capacity-building (Roster of experts)

The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recalling its decisions BS-I/4 and decision BS-II/4 on the roster of experts on biosafety,

Taking note of the report on the status and use of the roster of experts and of the pilot phase of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Roster of Experts (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP MOP/3/4/Add.2),

Recognizing the need to strengthen the roster of experts,

Understanding that it is the right of Parties and Governments to nominate their experts to the roster,

Welcoming the initiatives taken by the Executive Secretary to promote awareness about the roster of experts and to publicize the available funding from the pilot phase of the Voluntary Fund for the Roster of Experts,

1. *Requests* the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building for Biosafety to develop, for consideration at the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, draft criteria and minimum requirements (including minimum qualifications or experience), for experts to be included in the roster, in order to assist countries in making their nominations to the roster and in re-assessing the nominations already made;
2. *Requests also* the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building for Biosafety to explore the possibility of establishing a quality control mechanism, and if feasible, propose modalities of such mechanism for consideration at the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, taking into account the suggestions made during the internal review of the roster;
3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit to the Secretariat, no later six months prior to its fourth meeting, views and suggestions on the criteria and minimum requirements for experts to be nominated to the roster as well as views on a possible a quality control mechanism for the roster;
4. *Reiterates* the call to Parties and Governments to oblige the experts they nominate to the roster to provide sufficient details regarding their expertise, including: academic and professional qualifications, specific competencies, practical experiences and publications relevant to biosafety;
5. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to be more rigorous in their process of selecting and screening experts for nomination to the roster;
6. *Urges* national focal points to create user accounts for the experts nominated to the roster or authorize the Secretariat to create accounts for all experts in the roster and to update the records on the basis of the information submitted by experts that unable to do it themselves online;
7. *Invites* eligible Parties to make use of the biosafety roster of experts, and calls upon donors to make financial contributions to the appropriate fund under the Protocol in order to cover the cost of using experts from the roster;
8. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations that identify and use experts from the roster directly through Biosafety Clearing-House without going through the Secretariat to provide to the Secretariat evaluation reports of the completed assignments by the experts, including the quality of the

advice and other support provided, in order to facilitate the overall assessment of the utility and effectiveness of the roster;

9. *Invites also* capacity-building initiatives, such as the projects funded by the Global Environment Facility, to promote awareness of the roster, particularly in countries participating in those initiatives;

10. *Further invites* donor countries and relevant organizations to make voluntary contributions to assist developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition to pay for the use of experts selected from the roster.

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, on the basis of the submissions referred to in paragraph 3 above, a synthesis report for consideration by the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building for Biosafety.