

NOTIFICATION
Composition of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology

Dear Sir or Madam,

Further to notification [2025-143](#) issued on 14 November 2025, nominations were received with a view to constituting the membership in the ad hoc technical expert group on synthetic biology (AHTEG) established by the Conference of the Parties, in its decision [16/21](#).

The AHTEG is tasked with (i) reviewing and synthesizing the information presented during the intersessional period; (ii) identifying the current and potential benefits of synthetic biology; (iii) identifying the potential positive impacts of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology; (iv) identifying the potential negative impacts of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology; and (v) providing advice on how capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in synthetic biology can be taken into account with respect to the draft thematic action plan, in light of future developments of synthetic biology. The AHTEG shall also prepare a report for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-eighth meeting.

The selection of members has now been concluded in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, taking into account their specific scientific and technical expertise relevant to the mandate of the AHTEG, as well as gender balance and equitable geographical representation, and following the procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest as set out in the annex to decision [14/33](#) and as amended by decision [16/26](#). To the extent possible and in line with decision [16/21](#) establishing a new AHTEG, experts were selected from Parties and observers that did not previously participate in the multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, taking into account the nominations received and the suitability of candidates.

I am, therefore, pleased to announce the composition of the new AHTEG attached herewith.

A meeting of the AHTEG will be convened from 19 to 22 May 2026 in Montreal, Canada. With the generous financial support of the European Union, select representatives from indigenous peoples and local communities, women organizations and youth organizations, and experts from eligible Parties, will receive financial assistance to cover the cost of travel and a daily subsistence allowance.

Further information and documents for the meeting will be made available in due course.

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

(Signed) Astrid Schomaker
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

To: CBD national focal points, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations
cc: SBSTTA national focal points

Annex

Composition of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology

PARTIES

REGION	COUNTRY	EXPERT
African States	Niger	1. Mr. Harouna Issa Amadou
	Nigeria	2. Mr. Onyeka Nwosu
	São Tomé and Príncipe	3. Mr. Gaspar Afonso da Graça
	Zimbabwe	4. Ms. Annah Runesu Takombwa
Asia-Pacific States	China	5. Mr. Weiwen Zhang
	Malaysia	6. Mr. Saiful Effendi Syafruddin
	Mongolia	7. Ms. Enkhchimeg Vanjildorj
	Republic of Korea	8. Mr. Daehee Lee
Eastern European States	Armenia	9. Ms. Sirine Shogheryan
	Belarus	10. Ms. Galina Mozgova
	Lithuania	11. Mr. Florian Caspar Rabitz
	Slovenia	12. Mr. Martin Batič
Latin American and Caribbean States	Argentina	13. Ms. María Florencia Goberna
	Dominican Republic	14. Mr. Edian Franklin Franco de Los Santos
	Mexico	15. Ms. Jocelyn Cheé Santiago
	Paraguay	16. Mr. Danilo Fernández
Western European and other States	European Union	17. Ms. Kathleen Lehmann
	France	18. Ms. Ariane Chamoin
	Israel	19. Ms. Ronit Justo-Hanani
	Italy	20. Ms. Valeria Giovannelli

OBSERVERS

NOMINATING ENTITY	EXPERT
United States of America	1. Ms. Margaret Hunter
International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB)	2. Ms. Maria Yolanda Teran Maigua
CBD Women's Caucus/FARN	3. Ms. Daphne Esquivel-Sada
Global Youth Online Union	4. Mr. Zhaoqi Ma
Chinese Academy of Sciences	5. Mr. Wei Wei
Engineering Biology Research Consortium	6. Ms. Emily Aurand
Global Industry Coalition	7. Ms. Ana Atanassova
International Union for Conservation of Nature	8. Ms. Carolina Torres Trueba
Revive & Restore	9. Mr. Ben Novak
Rio Institute	10. Ms. Sarah Zanon Agapito
Save Our Seeds	11. Mr. Richard Guy Reeves
Third World Network	12. Ms. Lim Li Ching
University of Manitoba	13. Mr. Mark Belmonte