

Convention on Biological Diversity

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ENGLISH ONLY

MEETING OF THE GROUP OF THE FRIENDS OF THE CO-CHAIRS CONCERNING LIABILITY AND REDRESS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

First meeting
Mexico City, Mexico, 23-27 February 2009

Information Note for Participants

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1. Opening and registration

The First meeting of the Group of the Friends of the Co-Chairs Concerning Liability and Redress in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety will be held in Mexico City, Mexico from Monday, 23 to Friday, 27 February 2009.

The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. on Monday, 23 February 2009, and registration will take place at the venue of the meeting starting at 8:00 a.m. the same day.

2. Venue

The meeting will be held at:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Sala José María Morelos y Pavón (1st floor)
Plaza Juárez 20, colonia Centro
Del. Cuauhtémoc, 06010
Mexico City, Mexico

3. Working language of the meeting

The meeting will be held in English.

4. Documents

Participants are kindly reminded to **bring their own copies of the documents** for the meeting as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the meeting. Pre-session documents are available on the Secretariat's web site at:



<https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=BSGFLR-01>

5. General information on access to Mexico City



Mexico City is serviced by Mexico City International Airport – Benito Juárez – which is about 6.5 km from the city centre. The following is information regarding transportation to the city centre.

Taxi

Sitio 300 and Protaxi Ejecutivo are the only two companies which are controlled and monitored by the airport authorities. Sitio 300 fares are 127 MXN (approximately 10 US\$). For more information, please visit the following web sites: <http://www.taxisdelaeropuerto.com.mx/>

Subway/Metro

The city centre (Terminal Aerea) is also Subway station aeropuerto (Terminal 1, Blvd. Puerto Aereo). The fares for a single ticket is 27.25 MXN (approximately US \$2). The time table is as follows:

- Monday to Friday: from 5 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Saturday: from 6 a.m. to 12 p.m.

- Sunday: from 7:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.

For more information about Mexico City Metro, please go the following web site, which is available in Spanish only: <http://www.metro.df.gob.mx/>

6. Visa information

Participants from countries listed below are **exempt** from obtaining a visa for Mexico. Citizens from countries **not listed** (below) are strongly advised to contact the nearest Mexico diplomatic or consular mission **as soon as possible** in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure. **It should be noted that airlines will deny boarding in the absence of a valid visa.**

Information on visa procedures, including a list of relevant Mexican diplomatic/consular missions abroad, is available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico at: <http://www.sre.gob.mx/english/>.

COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WHOSE CITIZENS **DO NOT REQUIRE VISAS** IN ORDER TO ENTER MEXICO AS VISITORS (AS LISTED ON THE WEBSITE OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MEXICO)

Andora	Germany	Norway
Argentina	Greece	Poland
Australia	Hungary	Portugal
Austria	Ireland	Puerto Rico
Belgium	Israel	Singapore
Canada	Italy	Slovenia
Chile	Japan	Spain'
China	Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	Sweden
Costa Rica	Liechtenstein	Switzerland
Czech Republic	Luxembourg	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Denmark	Monaco	United States of America
Finland	Netherlands	Uruguay
France	New Zealand	Venezuela

To facilitate the issuance of visas, the Secretariat will issue upon request invitation letters to be attached to the visa applications.

7. Hotel information

Below, in **Annex**, is an indicative list of hotels located in the vicinity of the meeting venue. Further information on hotels in México is available at the following web-sites:

<http://www.hotelesdemexico.com.mx/> (for the period 22 February to 28 February 2009)

http://www.visitmexico.com/wb/Visitmexico/Visi_Home



Participants are kindly reminded that **they have to make their own hotel reservations as soon as possible.**

8. Payment of the Daily Subsistence Allowances (DSA)

Sponsored participants will receive their DSA on the first day of the meeting.

9. Official language in Mexico

The official language in Mexico is Spanish. However, English is widely spoken in hotels and restaurants

10. Weather and time zone information



In February, temperatures in Mexico City usually range between a maximum of +23°C in the daytime and a minimum of +7°C at night. Current weather conditions can be found at: <http://www.worldweather.org/179/c00279.htm>.

The standard time zone will be GMT – 6 hours

11. Electricity

127 volts, 60 Hertz. [Two-pin, flat and vertical and round earth connection, as illustrated below].



12. Currency



The currency in Mexico is the Mexican Peso (MXN \$). The current exchange rate as at 6 January 2009 is US \$1.00 = MXN \$13.62 and (Euro) € 1 = MXN \$18.32.

13. Disclaimer

The CBD Secretariat disclaims all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, for compensation for death or disability compensation, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other loss that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended to secure international medical insurance for the period of participation prior to departure.

Rate of exchange: US \$1 = MXN \$13.14
and €1 = MXN \$16.32

ANNEX: INDICATIVE HOTEL LISTING

NB. Unless otherwise specified, the indicative room rates, in us dollars, do not include taxes and they are subject to change without further notice

A. GRAND TOURISM	Approximate room rates	Distance to the meeting venue	Remarks
1. FOUR SEASONS HOTEL http://www.fourseasons.com/mexico/	Superior Room US \$440 Deluxe Room US \$415	About 10 minutes' walk	
2. MELIÁ REFORMA MÉXICO HOTEL http://www.meliamexicoreforma.com/	Single Room US \$115.00	About 5 minutes' walk	Special price
B. FIVE STAR HOTELS			
1. GRAN HOTEL CIUDAD DE MÉXICO http://www.granhotelciudaddemexico.com/pagina_prin_eng.htm	Single/Double Room US \$98.17 Junior Suite US \$152.20 Master Suite US \$181.88	About 10 minutes' walk	Tax included Special price
2. HOTEL SEVILLA PALACE http://www.sevillapalace.com.mx/sevillapalace/ing/default.asp	Single/Double Room US \$85.92	About 20 minutes' walk	Tax included
3. HOTEL EMPORIO REFORMA http://www.hotelesemporio.com/eng/idt/32/	Standard US\$ 132.67 Double room US \$ 143.35	About 20 minutes' walk	
4. HOTEL NH CENTRO HISTÓRICO http://www.nh-hotels.com/	Single/Double Room US \$94.43	About 10 minutes' walk	
C. FOUR STAR HOTELS			
1. FIESTA INN CENTRO HISTÓRICO http://www.fiestainn.com/portal/p/en_MX/FL/ALA/1/0/descripcionhotel/ALAdescripcionhotel.html	Single Room US\$ 60.88 Double Room US\$ 60.88	About 2 minutes' walk	Special price for this event
2. HOTEL FONTAN REFORMA http://www.hotelesfontan.com/oe/index.php?id=6&action=switch_language	Single Room US\$ 50.83 (breakfast buffet included) US\$ 47.94 (Continental breakfast included) US\$ 42.46 Double Room US\$ 63.16 (breakfast buffet included) US\$ 57.38 (Continental breakfast included) US\$ 46.42 (Tax included)	About 10 minutes' walk	
3. HOTEL TULIP INN RITZ MEXICO http://www.tulipinnritzmexico.com/contact-us.31661.aspx	Single/Double Room US \$73.05	About 5 minutes' walk	
B. THREE STAR HOTELS			
1. HOTEL AZORES http://www.hotelazores.com/index1.htm	Single Room US \$22.83 Double Room US \$27.43 Triple Room US \$31.96	About 10 minutes' walk	Tax included
2. HOTEL ROBLE CENTRO HISTÓRICO http://www.hotelroble.com/	Single Room US \$24.35 Double Room US \$32.72 Triple Room US \$39.57	About 10 minutes' walk	Tax included
