



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**



Ref.: SCBD/BS/WDY/KG/ps/70786

24 February 2010

**Subject: Letter from the Co-Chairs Regarding a Third Meeting of the Group
of the Friends of the Co-Chairs on Liability and Redress in the
Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to convey herewith a letter from the Co-Chairs of the Group of the Friends on Liability and Redress in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety regarding the organization of a third meeting of the Group.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

Attachment: Letter from the Co-Chairs of the Group of the Friends of the Co-Chairs

To: Friends, Advisors to Friends and Observers of the Group of Friends of the Co-Chairs on Liability and Redress in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (GFCC)

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



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COP 10 / MOP 5

Dear Friends, Advisors to Friends and Observers,

At its second meeting, the Group of Friends of the Co-Chairs on Liability and Redress in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (GFCC) agreed to have a third meeting in Montreal from 17 to 19 June 2010 with the participation of a limited number of advisors to the Friends and without the participation of observers (para. 15(b) to (d) of the report).

The admission of a limited number of advisors and the exclusion of observers encroaches upon the transparency of the process pursuant to Article 27 of the Protocol. With a view to building understanding and consensus, we have always enabled the effective participation of advisors and observers in the process, and we would like to continue to do so.

The sole reason for our proposal at GFCC 2 to limit participation in GFCC 3 is the costs associated with the admission of advisors and observers to the meeting. The organization of GFCC 3 at the premises of the Secretariat in Montreal minimizes the costs of the meeting. The capacity of the premises of the Secretariat is, however, not sufficient to host advisors and observers inside or outside the meeting room.

Yet, the agreement to organize GFCC 3 for three days in Montreal is subject to the availability of funds and an offer to host the meeting. We appeal to Friends, their advisors and observers to advance the negotiations on the international rules and procedures in the context of Article 27 of the Protocol by making funds available or by offering to host the meeting.

If an offer is made to host the meeting for three or, preferably, five days, and sufficient funds are made available, we will propose at GFCC 3, under the agenda item relating to the organization of work, to admit advisors and observers to the meeting, subject to a subsequent decision of the GFCC to proceed behind closed doors.

Such a proposal will be reflected in the annotated agenda, and the dates and venue of the meeting will be notified to all Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and observers in accordance with its Rules of Procedure. Our proposal to admit more advisors and observers is subject to the approval of the GFCC. Unless we receive any indication to the contrary, we will presume that such a proposal will be acceptable to our Friends so that advisors and observers will have sufficient time to arrange for their participation in the meeting.

We appeal to all of you to make this happen as we are convinced that the negotiations and the outcome thereof will benefit from it.

Yours sincerely,



Jimena Nieto



René Lefeber