



## Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.  
GENERAL

31 May 2016






ENGLISH ONLY

### AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT UNDER THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

Mexico City, Mexico, 25-29 July 2016

#### INFORMATION NOTE FOR PARTICIPANTS

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## **1. Opening and registration**

The Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Risk Assessment and Risk Management of Living Modified Organisms will be held in Mexico City, Mexico, from 25 to 29 July 2016. The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, 25 July 2016. Registration will take place at the venue of the meeting starting at 8:30a.m.

## **2. Venue**

The meeting will be held at:

### **Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores**

Room “*José Ma. Morelos y Pavón*”, Section D, 1<sup>st</sup> floor

Plaza Juárez 20

Delegación Cuauhtémoc

Colonia Centro

06010 Ciudad de México,

México

**PLEASE NOTE:** your passport/travel document will be required in order to enter the premises.

See annex C for a map of the area surrounding the Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores.

## **3. Working language of the meeting**

The meeting will be held in English.

## **4. Documents**

Background documents will be available, in due course, at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=BSRARM-AHTEG-2016-01>.

In order to minimize the environmental footprint of the workshop and in line with the UN policy towards greener meetings, participants are kindly reminded to bring their own copies of the meeting documents, or to use paperless versions, as there will be no extra copies made available on site during the workshop.

## **5. Access to Mexico D.F. and transportation**

Mexico City is serviced by Mexico City International Airport “Benito Juárez” which is about 6.5 km from the city center.

Participants are responsible for their transportation arrangements while in Mexico City. Taxi services are the most secure option when travelling within Mexico City. At the airport, these services can be found in Terminal 1 and 2 upon arrival. All tariffs should be easily identifiable and have been previously approved by the Ministry of Communication and Transport (Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transportes, SCT). For further information, please visit: <http://www.aicm.com.mx/pasajeros/transporte/taxis>

## 6. Visa information

Participants must complete all visa formalities prior to entering the country. **Please note that the Mexican government does not issue visas upon arrival.**

Participants from countries listed in annex A **do not** require an entry visa for Mexico. Participants from all other countries are strongly advised to contact the nearest Mexican diplomatic or consular mission as soon as possible in order to secure the required entry visa, including transit visas, in a timely manner, prior to departure. The visa application process can be lengthy, so please allow sufficient time to obtain your visa. It should be noted that airline companies will not allow boarding in the absence of a valid visa.

Information on visa procedures is available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico at: <http://serviciosconsulares.sre.gob.mx/index.php/visas?layout=edit&id=102>.

Links to Mexican embassies, consulates, missions and contact offices are available on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico at: <http://www.gob.mx/sre/acciones-y-programas/representaciones-de-mexico-en-el-exterior?idiom=es>

For the most up-to-date information on visa requirements, kindly consult directly with the Embassy/Consulate in your country/region.

Foreign citizens in holding any of the following documents do not require a Mexican visa:

- a) Certified proof of permanent residence in Canada, the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, as well as any country that is a part of the Schengen Area.
- b) A valid visa from the United States of America.
- c) A Mexican approved APEC Business Travel Card.

A list of relevant Mexican diplomatic/consular missions abroad can be found at <http://proteccionconsular.sre.gob.mx/index.php/situaciones-comunes?id=117>

Information on visa procedures and the visa application form are available at: <http://serviciosconsulares.sre.gob.mx/index.php/visas?layout=edit&id=102>.

## 7. Hotel information

A listing of recommended hotels close to the workshop venue is available in Annex B below. **Participants are kindly requested to make their own hotel reservations.**

Additional information regarding hotels in Mexico City and other general information are available on the web site of the Ministry of Tourism:

<http://www.visitmexico.com/en/>  
<http://www.visitmexico.com/en/mexico-city-df>

## **8. Payment of the daily subsistence allowance (DSA)**

The DSA will be disbursed to funded participants on the first day of the workshop. For identification purposes, these participants are kindly requested to bring their passports, which will be photocopied and returned to them.

## **9. Official language**

The official language in the Mexico is Spanish. English is spoken in some hotels and restaurants.

## **10. Weather and time zone**

In July, temperatures in Mexico City usually range between a maximum of 23°C (73°F) in the daytime and a minimum of 12°C (53°F) at night.

Current weather conditions in the area can be found at:  
<http://worldweather.wmo.int/en/city.html?cityId=279>

The standard time zone is GMT/UTC -6 hours.

## **11. Electricity**

The electrical currents are 120 volts, 60 Hertz. Participants using their own electrical appliances are advised to check the voltage before use.

In general, the plugs are two or three-pin type, flat and vertical and round earth connection, as shown in the figure below.



## **12. Currency**

The currency in Mexico is the Mexican Peso (MXN). The current exchange rate on 31 May 2016 is US \$1 = 18.41 MXN and € 1 = 20.52 MXN (rates are subject to change). American dollars, Canadian dollars and Euros are most commonly accepted in Currency Exchange Offices. It is recommended that all participants exchange currency at the airport in order to pay for transport services from the hotel to the airport.

For further information, please visit the website: <http://www.banxico.org.mx/dyn/indexEn.html>

## **13. International Phone Calls**

In order to make a call to Mexico City from abroad, one must dial the country code (52) as well as the area code (55) after the applicable long distance code (001 for Canada and the United States of America, 00 for all other countries).

## **14. Emergency Numbers**

In case of emergency the following numbers can be used to contact the relevant services:

066- Police and Ambulance Services

065- Red Cross

078- Roadside Assistance and Tourist Information

## **15. 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, accident and travel insurances for the period of participation prior to departure.

## Annex A – Visa Information

Citizens of the following countries and territories **do not** require a visa to visit or transit Mexico:

(Instituto Nacional de Migración (10/02/2016) <http://www.inm.gob.mx/gobmx/word/index.php/paises-no-requieren-visa-para-mexico/>)

<b>A</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>S</b>
Andorra	Finland	Macau	San Marino
American Samoa	France	Malta	Singapore
Argentina		Malaysia	Slovenia
Aruba	<b>G</b>	Martinica	Slovakia
Australia	Germany	Micronesia	South Korea
Austria	Greece	Monaco	St. Helen
	Guadalupe	Monserrat	Spain
<b>B</b>	Guyana Francesa		Sweden
Bahamas		<b>N</b>	Switzerland
Barbados	<b>H</b>	Norway	
Belize	Hong Kong*	New Zealand	<b>T</b>
Belgium	Hungary		The Netherlands
Brasil		<b>O</b>	Trinidad and Tobago
Bulgaria	<b>I</b>	Omán	
	Ireland		<b>U</b>
<b>C</b>	Iceland	<b>P</b>	United Kingdom
Canadá	Israel	Panama	Uruguay
Chile	Italy	Paraguay	United States of America
Chipre		Palau	
Colombia	<b>J</b>	Peru	<b>V</b>
Costa Rica	Jamaica	Poland	Venezuela
Croatia	Japan	Portugal	
Cyprus		Puerto Rico	
Czech Republic	<b>L</b>		
	Lichtenstein	<b>R</b>	
<b>D</b>	Latvia	Romania	
Denmark	Lithuania		
	Luxemburg		
<b>E</b>			
Eslovaquia			
Estonia			

## Annex B – Hotel listing

**Below is a listing of recommended hotels near the meeting venue  
(Rates subject to change)**

<b>HOTELS</b>	<b>APPROX. ROOM RATES PER NIGHT (other room types available)</b>	<b>REMARKS</b>
<b>Fiesta Inn</b> Centro Histórico Av. Juárez 76 Col. Centro 06010 Tel: +52 (55) 51 30 29 00 Website: <a href="http://www.fiestainn.com/es/mx-ciudad-de-mexico/hotel-centro-historico">http://www.fiestainn.com/es/mx-ciudad-de-mexico/hotel-centro-historico</a>	<b>Approx. \$95 USD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Room- King \$79.38</li> <li>Executive Room- 2 Double \$79.38</li> <li>Junior Suite- King \$103.91</li> </ul>	WI-FI included
<b>Hilton México City Reforma</b> Avenida Juárez 70, Col. Centro, CP06010 Tel: +52-55-5130-5300 Website: <a href="http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/distrito-federal/hilton-mexico-city-reforma-MEXRFHH/index.html">http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/distrito-federal/hilton-mexico-city-reforma-MEXRFHH/index.html</a>	<b>\$205 USD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single Room- King \$149-199</li> <li>Double Room- 2 Double \$149-199</li> </ul>	
<b>Howard Johnson/Hotel Alameda</b> Revillagigedo No. 23, Col. Centro, C.P. 06050 Tel: +52-55-5518-1150 Email: <a href="mailto:reservaciones@hjalameda.com.mx">reservaciones@hjalameda.com.mx</a> Website: <a href="http://tinyurl.com/jv4mm7q">http://tinyurl.com/jv4mm7q</a>	<b>\$65 USD</b>	
<b>Boutique Hotel Cortes</b> Av. Hidalgo 85 Esq. Paseo de la Reforma, Col. Centro, C.P. 06300 Tel: +52-55-5518-2181 Website: <a href="http://www.boutiquehoteldecortes.com/">http://www.boutiquehoteldecortes.com/</a>	<b>\$125 USD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Room- King \$96</li> <li>Deluxe Room- King \$107</li> <li>Junior Deluxe- King \$143</li> </ul>	WI-FI included
<b>Downtown Mexico</b> Isabel la Católica, No. 30, Col. Centro, 06010 Tel: +52-55-5130-6830 Website: <a href="http://www.downtownmexico.com/">http://www.downtownmexico.com/</a>	<b>\$180 USD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Colonial Queen \$137.67</li> <li>Colonial King \$159.17</li> <li>Suite \$196.00-240.92</li> </ul>	WI-FI included

## Annex C - Map of the area surrounding the Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores

