



Ref.: SCBD/I&O/CHM/MS

17 September 2001

Dear Madam/Sir,

Pursuant to decision V/20 paragraph 17 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-5), I am pleased to inform you that the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-7) will be held in Montreal, Canada, from 12 to 16 November 2001.

In this regard, I have the honour to invite the SBSTTA Focal Points as well as the Focal Points of the Clearing-house Mechanism to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CHM) who will participate in SBSTTA-7 to a lunchtime meeting with the members of the Informal Advisory Committee (IAC) of the Clearing-house Mechanism on **Wednesday, 14 November 2001**.

Please note that, in keeping with the policy of extending financial support to one delegate from each developing country Party to the Convention, the Secretariat will be in a position to support your participation only if you are your country's official delegate to the SBSTTA-7 meeting. In the event that you will not attend SBSTTA-7, your officially designated country representative to SBSTTA-7 may wish to represent you at this meeting. However, if your country will not be represented at the meeting, please note that a report indicating the outcome of the meeting will be distributed to all SBSTTA, CHM Focal Points and IAC members. The report will be accessible at the Secretariat's website at: (<http://www.biodiv.org>).

The purpose of this lunchtime event is to review CHM activities made in support of objectives identified by the Conference of the Parties in decision V/14. The meeting will also offer a review of activities made in support of recommendations made by the SBSTTA during its sixth meeting of 12 to 16 March 2001 and by the IAC during its meeting of 11 March 2001.

A presentation will take place on activities made by the CHM in support of the development and

To: SBSTTA Focal Points
CHM Focal Points
IAC Members

.../2

implementation of the Biosafety Clearing-House. Therefore, I would appreciate if you could review the attached CHM Matrix of Work and provide me with your views on implementing the requested activities for circulation to the IAC members before the meeting.

I look forward to meeting with you in November 2001.

Sincerely yours,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary