

Ref: SCBD/OES/HZ/MS/22189

15 October 2001

Dear Madam/Sir,

Pursuant to decision V/29 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties, I am pleased to inform you that, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Netherlands, the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-6) will be held in The Hague, from 7 to 19 April 2002. The official opening ceremony will take place in the afternoon of Sunday, 7 April 2002. The draft provisional agenda, the annotations to the provisional agenda, and the pre-registration form are attached, as well as a number of other pre-session documents for the meeting. The remaining pre-session documentation will be dispatched as soon as finalized. An information note for participants will be distributed at a later stage.

Should the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety enter into force before the opening of the COP-6 meeting, the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties (MOP-1) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety will be held from 22 to 26 April 2002 at the same venue in The Hague. For the Protocol to enter into force before the opening of the COP-6 meeting, the fiftieth instrument of ratification, accession, approval or acceptance must be deposited by 8 January 2002. In the event that the fiftieth instrument is not deposited by that date, and in accordance with recommendation 2/13 of the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, as endorsed by the COP-5 Bureau at its meeting on 6 October 2001, the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP-3) will be held instead on those dates.

In this regard, I have the honour to invite your organization to participate in the above-mentioned meetings. Please note that the pre-registration forms are accessible at the Secretariat's web site. It should be stressed that the month of April is a busy month in The Hague; hence, delegates are kindly urged to arrange for their hotel bookings the soonest possible.

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

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: Intergovernmental Organizations, Non-governmental and Indigenous Organizations

