

29 February 2000

Dear Madam/Sir,

As you are aware, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at the Resumed session of its First Extraordinary meeting held in Montreal, Canada, from 24 to 29 January 2000 adopted the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In accordance with its Article 36, the Protocol will be open for signature at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya, by States and regional economic integration organizations from 15 to 26 May 2000, and at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 5 June 2000 to 4 June 2001.

The purpose of this message is to remind you that, under established international practice, only Heads of State, Heads of Government and Ministers of Foreign Affairs are empowered, by virtue of their functions, to sign treaties on behalf of States without having to produce full powers to that effect. Other representatives must be in possession of appropriate full powers emanating from one of these authorities for the purpose of signing the Protocol on behalf of their Governments.

I would therefore be grateful if representatives of States and regional economic integration organizations wishing to sign the Protocol in Nairobi from 15 to 26 May 2000 could, as necessary, provide the required full powers in advance to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. States and regional economic integration organizations wishing to sign the Protocol thereafter should, as necessary, provide the required full powers in advance to the Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs, at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

For the sake of convenience, a model of full powers is attached.

Accept Madam/Sir the assurance of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan  
Executive Secretary

To: All National Focal Points

