

Please note change of address below

Ref. SCBD/EDM/BPU/CS/lr

27 March 2000

Dear Madam/Sir,

**Re: Decision EM-I/3: Adoption of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on
Biological Diversity and interim arrangements**

Reference is made to decision EM-I/3 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at the resumed session of its first extraordinary meeting held in Montreal from 24 to 29 January 2000.

Paragraph 8 of the decision establishes an open-ended ad hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP) whose mandate is to undertake, with the support of the Executive Secretary, the preparations necessary for the first meeting of the Parties (paragraph 10 of decision EM-I/3).

In paragraph 11 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties calls upon the Parties to the Convention and other States and regional economic integration organizations to designate a focal point for the Intergovernmental Committee and to inform the Executive Secretary accordingly.

Furthermore, paragraph 12 encourages Parties, States and regional economic integration organizations to provide the Intergovernmental Committee, through the Executive Secretary, with information on their existing programmes for regulating living modified organisms; and to provide related technical assistance, including training, to interested Parties and States.

Finally, paragraph 14 establishes a regionally balanced roster of experts nominated by Governments, in fields relevant to risk assessment and risk management related to the Protocol, to provide advice and other support, as appropriate and upon request, to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, to conduct risk assessment, make informed decisions, develop national human resources and promote institutional strengthening, associated with the transboundary movements of living modified organisms.

We would therefore be grateful if your government could provide the Secretariat, by 30 June 2000, with the following information in relation to the above-mentioned provisions of decision EM-I/3, namely:

- i) the name and coordinates of your Government's focal point(s) for the ICCP;



- ii) information on existing programmes in your country for regulating living modified organisms, and possibilities of providing related technical assistance, including training, to interested Parties and States; and
- iii) names and coordinates of national experts in fields relevant to risk assessment and risk management related to the Protocol who could be included in the roster of experts.

Thank you very much for your cooperation and continued support to the work of the Convention.

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: All National Focal Points