

Ref.: BS/EDM/KGM/jh

3 August 2001

NOTIFICATION

Madam/Sir,

Re: Group of Latin American and Caribbean States regional meeting on capacity-building for the Cartagena Protocol, focusing particularly on the Biosafety Clearing-House, 4-6 September 2001, Lima, Peru
AND
Regional capacity building meeting on the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention 7 September 2001, Lima, Peru

As you may be aware, Article 20 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity establishes a Biosafety Clearing-House as part of the clearing-house mechanism under Article 18, paragraph 3, of the Convention, in order to facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on, and experience with, living modified organisms; and to assist Parties to implement the Protocol.

At the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP), the Executive Secretary was requested to analyze the identified capacity-building and financial requirements of the developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing states among them, and countries with economies in transition, as well as countries that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, to enable their active participation in the pilot phase of the Biosafety Clearing-House. In support of this objective, a regional meeting will be convened for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States from **4 to 6 September 2001**, in Lima, Peru, following the offer of the Government of Peru to host such a meeting, to provide countries of the region with an opportunity to express their needs and expectations with regard to the establishment of this pilot phase.

Additionally, the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting requested that the Executive Secretary convene regional workshops to support capacity-building for clearing-house mechanism activities, training and awareness, with a focus on cooperation in biodiversity information for the implementation and management of the clearing-house mechanism at the national, subregional, biogeographic and regional levels, as appropriate. In support of this decision, a one-day capacity building meeting will be held back-to-back with the regional meeting on the Biosafety Clearing-House, on **7 September 2001**, to discuss issues pertaining to promotion and facilitation of technical and scientific cooperation, building capacity for information exchange under the Convention, and synergies and differences in the implementation of the Biosafety Clearing-House and the clearing-house mechanism in GRULAC.

To: CBD National Focal Points – GRULAC Region
Cc: ICCP Focal Points and CHM Focal Points – GRULAC Region

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The regional meetings will consider issues relevant to the operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House and the clearing-house mechanism in GRULAC. I would like to invite Parties and Governments to nominate one participant for these meetings, preferably qualified in one of the following fields: management of biosafety-related issues (such as notifications for decision-making); information-sharing systems and database-management; and/or experience with the clearing-house mechanism of the CBD. The provisional agendas for the meetings are attached, the annotated agendas will follow shortly. Please note that the meeting will be held in English and Spanish.

The Secretariat will support the participation of one representative of each GRULAC country Party to the Convention. This includes a round-trip air ticket on the most economical and direct route and a Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for the duration of the meetings. Countries that wish to solicit such assistance are requested to provide the required information on the enclosed nomination form and forward it to the Secretariat before **Friday, 17 August 2001**.

In order to further assist the deliberations of this workshop, Parties, Governments and relevant organizations are kindly requested to submit their views and needs with regard to the operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House and/or the Clearing-House Mechanism, as well as any other relevant information they may wish to convey to the Secretariat prior to the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

Enclosure: Participant nomination form
Provisional agendas for the meetings

**Nomination form for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States
regional meeting on the Biosafety Clearing-House,
4-6 September 2001, Peru
AND
Regional capacity building meeting on the clearing-house mechanism of the
Convention
7 September 2001, Peru**

**This form must be returned to the CBD Secretariat before Friday, 17 August 2001
Please return by fax to +1 514 288-6588**

Participant details:

Family Name:	First Name:
Title (Mr / Ms / Dr / etc.):	Sex:
Job title:	Employer:
Address for correspondence:	
Telephone number (business hours):	Telephone number (after hours):
Facsimile number:	E-mail address:
Areas of expertise (please indicate any that apply): Biosafety regulation / Clearing-House Mechanism / Information-sharing / Other (please specify):	

To be completed by the CBD National Focal Point making the nomination:

Nominated by Government of: _____

Name of CBD National Focal Point: _____

Signature of Focal Point: _____ Date: _____

Please return completed form to:

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