

Ref.: BS/EDM/KGM

14 November 2001

**NOTIFICATION**

Madam/Sir,

**Re: African Meeting on capacity-building for the Biosafety Clearing-House  
(to be held back-to-back with the UNEP-GEF African regional workshop on biosafety)  
19 January 2002, Nairobi, Kenya**

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.

The African Regional Meeting on the Biosafety Clearing-House and the Clearing-House Mechanism was held in Nairobi from 26 to 28 February 2001 to provide countries of the region with an opportunity to express their needs and expectations with regard to the establishment of the pilot phase. Following the launch of the pilot phase of the Biosafety Clearing-House on 5 April 2001, and in line with the recommendation from the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to make these regional meetings an ongoing activity, the Secretariat intends to convene a second regional meeting for Africa to provide "hands-on" training on the use of the Biosafety Clearing-House.

A one-day training session will be organized back-to-back with the UNEP-GEF African Regional Workshop on Biosafety, to be held in Nairobi from 16-18 January 2002. Each African country represented at the UNEP-GEF meeting will have the opportunity to attend the training session on the Biosafety Clearing-House, and will be eligible for an extra day of Daily Subsistence Allowance to cover the costs of participation. Countries that wish to solicit such assistance are requested to provide the required information on the enclosed form and forward it to the Secretariat before **Wednesday, 9 January 2001**.

Please contact UNEP-GEF directly regarding the support for the UNEP-GEF regional workshop on Biosafety meetings.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan  
Executive Secretary

Enclosure: Participant nomination form

To: CBD National Focal Points – Africa Region  
Cc: ICCP Focal Points – Africa Region  
Cc: UNEP-GEF