

Ref.: SCBD/BS/WD/jh/24027

16 January 2002

**NOTIFICATION**

Madam/Sir,

**Re: Invitation to make nominations for the technical experts meeting on the requirements of paragraph 2(a) of Article 18 of the Biosafety Protocol - 18 to 20 March 2002, Montreal**

I wish to draw your attention to recommendation 2/10 of the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP) held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 1 to 5 October 2001, regarding Article 18 of the Biosafety Protocol (Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification).

The ICCP requested, among other things, Parties, Governments and relevant international organizations to provide to the Executive Secretary any views as well as relevant information regarding: (i) the appropriate implementation of the requirement contained in the first sentence of paragraph 2(a) of Article 18 by the time of entry into force of the Protocol; and, (ii) the requirements of each element of paragraph 2(a) of Article 18 of the Protocol. The ICCP also requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a synthesis report of the views submitted with the aim of making it available, along with the original submissions, to a meeting of technical experts that is required to be convened back-to-back with any technical experts meeting on paragraphs 2(b) and 2(c) of Article 18.

In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that the meeting will be held in Montreal from 18 to 20 March 2002 back-to-back with the meeting on paragraphs 2(b) and 2(c) of Article 18 of the Biosafety Protocol planned for 13 to 15 March 2002. Participants of the meeting will consist of a regionally balanced group of about 75 experts drawn from nominations of Governments, as well as observers from relevant international organizations. The mandate of the meeting will be: (i) first, to consider the modalities, prior to entry into force, of the implementation of the requirements contained in the first sentence of paragraph 2(a) of Article 18 of the Protocol; (ii) and then, to consider the identification of issues to be addressed beyond entry into force, in preparation for the decision referred in paragraph 2(a) of Article 18.

To: ICCP National Focal Points  
CBD National Focal Points (where ICCP NFPs have not yet been nominated)  
Relevant international organizations



I would, therefore, appreciate if your Government/organization submit the name(s) and curriculum vitae of suitably qualified experts to the Secretariat **no later than 10 February 2002** in order to allow us to finalize, in consultation with the Bureau of the ICCP, the selection of participants and the organization of the meeting in a timely manner. Please note that the meeting will be conducted only in English.

However, since the meeting on paragraphs 2(b) and 2(c) of Article 18 is a continuation of the work accomplished by the experts' meeting held in Paris, from 13 to 15 June 2001, the same experts who participated in the Paris meeting will be invited to attend this follow up meeting. The concerned Governments and organizations whose experts had participated in the Paris meeting are, therefore, being invited, by a separate letter, to confirm the participation of their experts in the technical experts' meeting on paragraphs 2(b) and 2(c) of Article 18 to be held in Montreal from 13 to 15 March 2002.

I would also like to take this opportunity to refer you to our notification dated 7 November 2001 requesting your Government/organization to submit views and information as requested in the various recommendations of the second meeting of the ICCP, not later than 15 January 2002. The synthesis report of the views and relevant information requested by the ICCP regarding the requirements of paragraph 2(a) of Article 18 is considered essential background document for the technical experts' meeting and I, therefore, urge your Government/organization to submit, if not yet done so, the views and information as soon as possible but in any case no later than 30 January 2002.

I thank you for your continued cooperation and support towards the work of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan  
Executive Secretary