



Ref.: SCBD/STTM/MG/ia/32419

19 December 2002

NOTIFICATION

Madam / Sir,

Subject: Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group on genetic use restriction technologies from 19 to 21 February 2003, in Montreal, Canada

In paragraph 21 of its decision VI/5 on agricultural biological diversity, the Conference of the Parties decided to establish an *ad hoc* technical expert group on genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs) to further analyse the potential impacts of GURTs on smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities and on Farmers' Rights. In preparing its advice for consideration at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the expert group was requested to take into account relevant ongoing work being carried out by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), the Intergovernmental Committee of Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and other organizations, as well as comments from Parties, international organizations, and smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities.

I am pleased to advise that the Secretariat is convening a meeting of the *ad hoc* technical expert group on GURTs from 19 to 21 February 2003, at the premises of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, Canada. The group will report to both the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Background information and an indicative list of relevant documentation are annexed to this notification. The provisional agenda for this meeting is attached to this notification.

You are hereby invited to submit the name of an expert who may be called upon to serve in the *ad hoc* technical expert group, together with a description of his/her expertise to carry out the task mandated to this group. The nomination of experts should be sent to the Secretariat, by fax or electronic mail, no later than **15 January 2003**.

To: All CBD National Focal Points



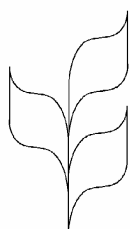
Once nominations are received, the Executive Secretary will select the experts who will participate in the meeting with due consideration given to geographical balance, local and indigenous communities representation, as well as to ensuring a range of expertise on genetic use restriction technologies including expertise related to intellectual property rights and Farmers' Rights.

Accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

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**AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON
THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF GENETIC USE
RESTRICTION TECHNOLOGIES ON SMALLHOLDER
FARMERS, INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES
AND FARMERS' RIGHTS**

Montreal, 19 - 21 February 2003
Item 2.2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - 2.1. Election of officers;
 - 2.2. Adoption of the agenda;
 - 2.3. Organization of work.
3. Reporting on ongoing initiatives requested by the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in paragraphs 21, 23 and 24 of decision VI/5 on agricultural biodiversity.
4. Further analysis of the potential impacts of genetic use restriction technologies (GURTs).
 - 4.1. Potential impacts on smallholder farmers, indigenous and local communities.
 - 4.2. Potential impacts on Farmers' Rights.
5. Advice for consideration by the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
6. Other matters.
7. Adoption of the report.
8. Closure of the meeting.
