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13 May 2003

NOTIFICATION

Information on the dates of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to inform you that since our last update (7 January 2003) on the status of ratification of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, a good number of countries have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. As a result, entry into force of the Protocol has now become imminent. At the date of this notification, 48 instruments have been deposited with the Depository. Please see the attachment or visit our web site at: <http://www.biodiv.org/biosafety/> for a complete list of ratifications.

The Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureaux of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP), has been working on the appropriate schedule and modalities of organization of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP). Taking into account several factors, the first meeting of COP-MOP is now planned to take place from 22 to 26 March 2004 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in conjunction with the seventh meeting of the COP. The schedule takes into consideration mainly, prospects in the process of ratification, Decision VI/1 of the COP, and views from and arrangements by the host Government. For this plan to materialize, however, the 50th instrument of ratification should be deposited with the Depository by 22 December 2003, at the latest.

I would, therefore, invite Parties to the Convention to take note of these dates and hasten the preparation necessary for their participation in the first meeting of the COP-MOP as Parties to the Protocol enjoying the privileges to take part in making those important decisions awaiting the meeting.

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

[signed]

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: ICCP National Focal Points
CBD National Focal Points (where ICCP focal points have not yet been designated)

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