



Convention on Biological Diversity

Secretariat

Ref.: SCBD/BS/CS/XW/jh/39042

16 September 2003

**RE: INVITATION TO PREPARE FOR THE POSSIBLE ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF A
COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE UNDER THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL DURING THE
FIRST MEETING OF THE COP/MOP**

Madam/Sir,

I refer to recommendation 3/2 of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP), in which ICCP forwarded the text of the draft procedures and mechanisms on compliance, as contained in annex I of the recommendation, to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for its consideration. The text was developed in accordance with Article 34 of the Protocol to promote compliance with the provisions of the Protocol and to address cases of non-compliance.

The draft procedures and mechanisms on compliance provide for the possible establishment of a compliance committee consisting of 15 members nominated by Parties and elected by the COP/MOP on the basis of three members from each of the five United Nations regions. As the Protocol entered into force on 11 September 2003 and the first meeting of the COP/MOP is drawing close, it may be appropriate for Governments to prepare for a possible election of members of the compliance committee at the first meeting of the COP/MOP in the event the latter decides to establish such a body. In this regard, the ICCP Bureau recommended, at its meeting held on 28-29 August 2003, that the Secretariat issue the present notification inviting Governments to take action that would expedite the process of establishment of the compliance committee and election of its members at the first meeting of COP/MOP.

Accordingly, Governments are invited to identify suitably qualified candidates for membership in a future compliance committee. In so doing, Governments are further invited to take into account the qualifications envisaged in the draft procedures and mechanisms on compliance. Governments may wish to identify, preferably through regional consultations, possible candidates that have recognized competence in the field of biosafety or other relevant fields, including legal or technical expertise, and provide the Secretariat with their names and curriculum vitae for compilation and timely submission for further consultations and appropriate action during the first meeting of COP/MOP.

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

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

[Signed]

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: National Focal Points of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and other Governments



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