



Ref.: SCBD/BS/CS/WDY/jh/42384

13 April 2004

**REQUEST FOR VIEWS AND INFORMATION REGARDING ISSUES RELEVANT TO
PARAGRAPH 2(A) OF ARTICLE 18 OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY**

Madam/Sir,

I would like to draw your attention to Decision BS-I/6 of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP), which requests, under paragraph 7, Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations to provide to the Executive Secretary by 30 June 2004:

(a) Information on experience, if any, in the implementation of the requirements of the first sentence of paragraph 2(a) of Article 18;

(b) Views regarding the detailed requirements referred to in the second sentence of paragraph 2(a) of Article 18, including specification of the identity of the living modified organisms (LMOs) that are intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (whether the extent of information should include taxonomic name, the gene modifications inserted and traits or genes changed); threshold levels in the case of co-mingling of LMOs with non-LMOs; and possible linkages of the issue with Article 17 of the Protocol; the “may contain” language; and any unique identification;

(c) Information on experience with the use of existing unique identification systems under the Protocol, such as the Unique Identifier for Transgenic Plants of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

In accordance with the same decision, the Executive Secretary is required to prepare a synthesis of the information and views described above, and to submit it for consideration by an open-ended technical expert group, which will be convened to examine the issues identified in its terms of reference and to propose a draft decision to the second meeting of COP-MOP.

I would, therefore, like to remind you to submit your views and information regarding issues relevant to paragraph 2(a) of Article 18 of the Biosafety Protocol to the Secretariat as soon as possible, but **no later than 30 June 2004** in accordance with the request of the first meeting of COP-MOP.

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

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

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

