



Ref.: SCBD/BS/RH/jh/40682

7 January 2004

**NOTIFICATION**

**Re: Annual Printout of the Roster of Experts on Biosafety**

Madam/Sir,

In accordance with the Interim Guidelines for the Roster of Experts on Biosafety, developed by the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP) at its second meeting (recommendation 2/9-B), I am pleased to send to you a hard copy summary of the roster of experts on biosafety. On the cover page you will find information on the distribution of experts in terms of areas of expertise, regional representation, and gender breakdown as of the end of year 2003. The information for each expert is summarized in the printout, and further details can be accessed via the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) at [bch.biodiv.org](http://bch.biodiv.org). Please note that it is possible to search the roster on the BCH by various fields including area of expertise, country or region of nomination or nationality, and any particular keyword of interest. I trust that this summary printout and the more detailed information available through the BCH will facilitate use of the roster of experts on biosafety by your government.

Let me take this opportunity as well to remind you that the ICCP, at its third meeting, urged "Governments to update, or to request their nominated experts to update, the information currently contained in the roster, for each field of the new nomination form" (recommendation 3/4). Only your BCH National Focal Point is able to add or modify information in the BCH that pertains to your government, including your entries in the roster for experts. BCH National Focal Points may also give authorization to the experts themselves to allow them to update their records directly. For those Governments that have not yet nominated a BCH National Focal Point pursuant to recommendation 2/8 of ICCP, I urge you to do so as soon as possible to enable the Secretariat to issue them with an account for these purposes.

Finally, let me also take this opportunity to remind you that the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP-6), in April 2002, established a pilot phase of a voluntary fund for the roster of experts on biosafety, with the aim of supporting developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing states among them, and Parties with economies in transition, to pay for the use of experts selected from the roster (Decision VI/1). I would like to reiterate the recommendation of ICCP-3, which urged Governments and other donors to make contributions to the pilot phase of the fund.

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

Hamdallah Zedan  
Executive Secretary

To: Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety National Focal Points  
CBD and ICCP National Focal Points (where Cartagena Protocol focal points have not yet been designated)

