



# Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Ref.: SBD/BS/CG/ET/jh/66040

14 January 2009

## NOTIFICATION

### Announcement of the Online-Conference on Capacity-Building for Integration of Biosafety into National Development Plans, Strategies and Programmes 19 January to 6 February 2009

Madam/Sir,

In its decision BS-III/3, paragraph 7, the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP) urged Parties and other Governments to integrate biosafety in their broader sustainable development strategies and approaches and programmes such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, where available and when scheduled for revision, as well as those related to the goals and objectives agreed upon at major United Nations conferences and summits including those agreed upon at the Millennium Summit that are described as the Millennium Development Goals.

At the third coordination meeting of governments and organizations involved in implementing and/or funding biosafety capacity-building activities, which was held from 26 to 28 February 2007 in Lusaka, Zambia, participants identified the integration of biosafety into national development plans and programmes as one of the key areas in which many countries require urgent capacity-building support and guidance and agreed to discuss it in-depth at the fifth coordination meeting. In this regard, the Secretariat was requested to organize, prior to the fifth coordination meeting, online-conferences on this and other topics in order to facilitate an initial exchange of views and information.

I have the pleasure to inform you that the "Online-Conference on Capacity-Building for Integration of Biosafety into National Development Plans, Strategies and Programmes" will be held from **19 January to 6 February 2009** through the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH). The objective of the conference is to enable participants to share knowledge, experiences and lessons learned in the integration of biosafety considerations into national development plans, strategies and programmes. Participants will also identify tools and mechanisms for mainstreaming biosafety and discuss possible ways of strengthening the capacities of countries to integrate biosafety into their development plans. The outcomes of the conference will be summarized in a background paper for the face-to-face discussions at the fifth coordination meeting to be held in March 2009. The recommendations of the coordination meeting will be submitted for consideration by the fifth meeting of the COP-MOP.

I wish to invite all Parties, other governments and relevant organizations to register and participate in the conference. All those who registered for the previous conference in the online forum on capacity-building do not have to register again. They can participate using their previous username and password. The registration form and other details regarding the conference are available at: [http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/about\\_dev\\_cb.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/about_dev_cb.shtml).

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif  
Executive Secretary

To: National Focal Points to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB NFP)  
CBD National Focal Points (where CPB NFPs have not yet been designated)  
National Focal Points to the Biosafety Clearing-House  
Relevant Organizations



ONE NATURE · ONE WORLD · OUR FUTURE  
COP 9 MOP 4 Bonn Germany 2008



United Nations  
Environment Programme

413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800  
Montreal, QC H2Y 1N9, Canada

Tel : +1 514 288 2220  
Fax : +1 514 288 6588

<http://www.cbd.int>  
[secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int)