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20 January 2011

NOTIFICATION

**Socio-economic considerations (Article 26 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety): Inter-
sessional activities emanating from COP-MOP decision BS-V/3, paragraphs 21 to 26**

Madam/Sir,

At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP) adopted decision BS-V/3 on Status of Capacity-Building Activities. Section IV of the decision concerns cooperation on identification of capacity-building needs for research and information exchange on socio-economic considerations.

I would like to draw your attention here below to elements of the decision that request action from Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations prior to the sixth meeting of the COP-MOP and the timeline proposed by the Secretariat for the implementation of the specified activities and preparation of the relevant documentation in a timely manner (see Annex).

In order to facilitate the preparation of the online regional conferences requested in paragraph 24 of the decision, online discussion groups will be held through the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH). Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations are invited to nominate representatives to participate in the online discussion groups by completing and submitting the form available through the BCH at http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art26/portal.shtml. Forms should clearly indicate the nominee's experience and expertise in the field of socio-economic considerations, e.g. relevant work experience, educational background, publications, etc.

Furthermore, to facilitate the work on socio-economic considerations and the timely provision of information, a collaborative portal on socio-economic considerations has been created in the Biosafety Clearing-House at the following address: http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art26/portal.shtml.

Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations are urged to submit their nominations and the information requested in the Annex below as soon as possible. Information should be submitted to the Executive Secretary preferably by e-mail at secretariat@cbd.int.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

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

Annex

Timeline for implementation of activities on socio-economic considerations

Date	Activity	Remarks
28 February 2011	Deadline for Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to nominate representatives to participate in online discussion groups on socio-economic considerations.	Nominations to participate in the online discussion groups may be made by submitting the form available through the BCH at http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art26/portal.shtml .
28 February 2011	Deadline for Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit to the Executive Secretary relevant information on socio-economic considerations, including guidance material and case studies on, <i>inter alia</i> , institutional arrangements and best practices (dec. BS-V/3, para. 23)	The submissions received from Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations will be compiled for the consideration of the Liaison Group when it meets in April 2011 to provide advice on the organization of the workshop on capacity-building for research and information exchange on socio-economic impacts of living modified organisms.
15 April 2011	Deadline for Parties and other Governments to submit to the Biosafety Clearing-House their capacity-building needs and priorities regarding socio-economic considerations (dec. BS-V/3, para. 22)	
March to May 2011	Online discussion groups on socio-economic considerations	
April 2011 (tentative)	Eighth meeting of the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building for Biosafety to provide advice on the organisation of the workshop on socio-economic considerations (dec. BS-V/3, para. 27)	
June 2011 (tentative)	Online regional conferences on socio-economic considerations (dec. BS-V/3, para. 24)	Information on the regional online conferences, including participation and logistics, will be circulated in a separate notification.
November 2011 (tentative)	Workshop on capacity-building for research and information exchange on socio-economic impacts of living modified organisms (dec. BS-V/3, para. 25)	The outcomes from the online discussion groups and regional online conferences along with the submissions received and the advice of the Liaison Group on Capacity-building for Biosafety will be used in the organization of the workshop which is planned for November 2011. Participants in the workshop will be selected by the Secretariat from among the participants in the online discussion groups and regional online conferences, taking into account geographic distribution and gender balance.