



Ref.: SCBD/BS/CG/KG/jh/76023

4 May 2011

## NOTIFICATION

### Regional Online Real-time Conferences on Socio-economic Considerations (Article 26 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety)

Madam/Sir,

In paragraph 24 of decision BS-V/3, the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety requested the Executive Secretary to convene regional online conferences to: (i) facilitate the exchange of views, information and experiences on socio-economic considerations on a regional basis; and (ii) identify possible issues for further consideration.

I wish to draw your attention to the calendar for the regional online real-time conferences. The real-time conferences will be conducted in English unless indicated otherwise:

- June 14<sup>th</sup>: Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries
- June 16<sup>th</sup>: Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries (Spanish)
- June 21<sup>st</sup>: Western Europe and Others Group and Central and Eastern Europe
- June 23<sup>rd</sup>: Africa
- July 5<sup>th</sup>: Africa (French)
- July 7<sup>th</sup>: Asia-Pacific

A minimum of ten pre-registered participants is required to proceed with each of the scheduled real-time conferences.

Participants who are already registered for the earlier online discussion groups on socio-economic considerations will be automatically registered for the real-time conferences.

Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations are also invited to nominate additional representatives to participate in the real-time conferences by completing and submitting the form available through the Biosafety Clearing-House at [http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb\\_art26/resources.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art26/resources.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.

**Additional nominations are expected to reach the Secretariat no later than 30 May 2011** and should be submitted to the Executive Secretary by e-mail at [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int).

You are reminded that participants for the workshop on socio-economic considerations (tentatively scheduled for November 2011) 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.

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

Additional details on the real-time conferences – such as technical requirements, the schedule for live testing with the Secretariat, and the agenda – will be made available shortly through the Portal on Socio-Economic Considerations in the Biosafety Clearing-House: [http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb\\_art26/portal.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art26/portal.shtml).

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif  
Executive Secretary