



Ref.: SCBD/BS/CG/MPM/jh/78075

31 October 2011

## NOTIFICATION

### Submission of background materials relevant to the Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms

Madam/Sir,

In decision BS-V/12, the Parties to the Protocol requested the Executive Secretary to update the common format for submission of records to the Biosafety Information Resources Centre (BIRC) of the Biosafety-Clearing House in order to link the records relevant to risk assessment to specific sections of the Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms.

In that same decision, the Parties mandated the open-ended online forum and the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Risk Assessment and Risk Management to work together in developing, *inter alia*, a mechanism for future updates of the lists of background materials.

At its third meeting, the AHTEG agreed that the AHTEG Chair in consultation with the AHTEG Bureau and Secretariat remain responsible for updating the list of background materials linked to the Guidance for the duration of AHTEG mandate. Further, it was also agreed that the Secretariat would invite all Parties, non-Parties, relevant organizations and users of the Biosafety Clearing-House to submit background materials that are relevant to the Guidance for the consideration of the AHTEG.

Following the update of the BIRC common format, I am pleased to invite the technical and scientific experts of your country or organization, as well as registered BCH users to submit to the Secretariat, background materials that are relevant to the Guidance.

The submission of background materials will be an ongoing exercise performed online through the Biosafety-Clearing House at <http://bch.cbd.int/managementcentre/edit/resource.shtml> and indicating the section(s) of the Guidance that the background material is relevant. The latest version of the Guidance is available at [http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/forum\\_ra.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/forum_ra.shtml).

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif  
Executive Secretary

To: National Focal Points of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CBD where no CPB)  
Relevant organizations  
Registered BCH users