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13 May 2013

## NOTIFICATION

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

Dear Madam/Sir,

In line with decision BS-VI/13 of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, further to [notification 2013-008](#), and following the successful conclusion of the online discussions on socio-economic considerations that were held from 11 March 2013 to 16 April 2013, the Secretariat is currently making preparations to convene regional online real-time conferences to further advance the discussions.

The tentative schedule for the regional online real-time conferences is as follows:

- 13 June 2013: Western Europe and Others Group and Central and Eastern Europe
- 17 June 2013: Asia-Pacific
- 20 June 2013: Africa
- 25 June 2013: Africa (French)
- 27 June 2013: Group of Latin American and Caribbean countries (Spanish)

This schedule may be revised following nominations and confirmation of participants. The real-time conferences will be conducted in English unless otherwise indicated. 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. These participants are, however, encouraged to confirm their availability to the online conference of their respective region.

Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations are invited to nominate, if they so wish, additional representatives to participate in the real-time conferences by completing and submitting the form available at [http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal\\_art26/resources\\_2012\\_2014.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_art26/resources_2012_2014.shtml). Kindly submit any additional nominations to the Secretariat at [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int) **no later than 31 May 2013**.

Participation in the regional online conferences will be considered in the selection of members to the ad hoc technical expert group envisaged in paragraph 4 of decision BS-VI/13.

Additional details on the real-time conferences, such as technical requirements, schedule for live testing with the Secretariat, and provisional 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.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias  
Executive Secretary

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



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Biological Diversity

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