



Ref.: SCBD/BS/MPM/DA/83988

27 October 2014

NOTIFICATION

Nomination of experts to the Open-ended Online Expert Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Dear Madam/Sir,

In its decision BS-VII/12, paragraph 4, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP) decided to extend the Open-ended Online Expert Forum (Online Forum) on Risk Assessment and Risk Management and the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Risk Assessment and Risk Management with the revised terms of reference annexed hereto, and to expand the composition of the AHTEG by adding one new member from each region.

In paragraph 8 of decision BS-VII/12, the COP-MOP invited Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to confirm the nominations of their experts who are currently participating in the Online Forum, and requested the Executive Secretary to remove the records of experts whose nominations are not confirmed.

The COP-MOP further invited Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to nominate additional experts to join the Online Forum using the format for the nomination of experts to the Roster of Experts.

Accordingly, I am pleased to invite you (i) to confirm the nominations of experts from your country or organization, as appropriate, who are currently participating in the Open-ended Online Expert Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management, and (ii) to nominate additional experts from your country or organization, as appropriate, who are actively involved in risk assessment and risk management, to participate in the Open-ended Online Expert Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management.

Confirmation of nominations of experts currently participating in the Online Forum

Confirmation of experts who are currently participating in the Online Forum may be done by National Focal Points or Heads of organizations, as appropriate, via correspondence to secretariat@cbd.int confirming the name of the expert for continued participation in the Open-ended Online Expert Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management. The list of participants to the Online Forum is available at http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/participants_ra.shtml.

The confirmation of experts is to be done as soon as possible but no later than **30 November 2014**. The records of experts who are not confirmed will be removed from the Online Forum as requested by the COP-MOP.

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



Convention on
Biological Diversity

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Nominations of new experts to the Online Forum

Nominations for new experts to the Online Forum are to be submitted electronically at <https://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferencing/riskAssessment/expertNomination.shtml> by Parties and other Governments (access restricted to National Focal Points) or at https://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/nominationOrgs_ra.shtml by relevant organizations.

Only in the event of difficulty submitting this information online, a common format for the nomination of a biosafety expert may be downloaded, completed and sent to the Secretariat at secretariat@cbd.int.¹

Nominations for new experts to the Online Forum will be accepted on an ongoing basis, however, to be considered as a candidate for the AHTEG on Risk Assessment and Risk Management, nominations for experts to the Online Forum are to be received before **30 November 2014**.

Selection of new AHTEG members

To expand the composition of the AHTEG on Risk Assessment and Risk Management, one new member from each of the five geographical regions will be selected by the Secretariat, in consultation with the COP-MOP Bureau, from among those experts nominated to the Online Forum by Parties, taking into account their expertise and gender balance in accordance with the Consolidated *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity.²

The selection of the five new AHTEG members will take place in early December 2014.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

¹ The offline format for nominating experts is available at https://bch.cbd.int/resources/common%20formats/nationalrecord_07_biosafetyexperts_en.doc?download.

Nominations that are not submitted electronically through the Biosafety Clearing-House must (a) be completed and signed by the Cartagena Protocol National Focal Point (for nominations by Parties and other Governments) or Head of organization (for organizations), (b) contain clear reference to the Open-ended Online Expert Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management and (c) be sent to the Secretariat via email (secretariat@cbd.int), fax (+1-514-288-6588) or postal mail (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 413 rue Saint-Jacques, suite 800, Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N9, Canada).

² Available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/bs-rules-en.pdf>.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE OPEN-ENDED ONLINE FORUM AND AD HOC
TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

Methodology

1. Taking into account the results of the testing process, established in decision BS-VI/12, the Guidance on Risk Assessment of LMOs shall be revised and improved in accordance with the following mechanism:

(a) After the seventh meeting of the COP-MOP, the Secretariat will group the original comments provided through the testing of the Guidance. The grouping will be done in the form of a matrix based on the following categories: statements that do not trigger changes; editorial and translational changes; suggestions for changes without a specified location in the Guidance; and suggestions for changes to specific sections of the Guidance (sorted by line numbers);

(b) The AHTEG shall review the grouping of comments done by the Secretariat and work on the suggestions for changes;

(c) The AHTEG shall streamline the comments by identifying which suggestions may be taken on board and providing justification for those suggestions that may not be taken on board. The AHTEG will also provide concrete text proposals for the suggestions to be taken on board with a justification where the original suggestion was modified;

(d) The Open-ended Online Forum and the AHTEG shall subsequently review all comments and suggestions with a view to having an improved version of the Guidance for consideration by the COP-MOP at its eighth meeting.

2. While revising and improving the Guidance, an attempt should be made to take into account the topics prioritized by the AHTEG, on the basis of the needs indicated by the Parties with a view to moving towards operational objectives 1.3 and 1.4 of the Strategic Plan and its outcomes, for the development of further guidance.

3. The AHTEG shall continue to operate the mechanism for regularly updating the list of background documents to the Guidance as established in decision BS-VI/12, paragraph 6, and improved as per paragraph 10 of this decision.

4. Subject to the availability of funds, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management shall meet face-to-face, at least once, prior to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

Expected outcome

5. An improved version of the Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms.

Reporting

6. The Online Forum and the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management shall submit their reports detailing the activities, outcomes and recommendations for consideration by the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.