



Ref.: SCBD/BS/CG/MPM/DA/84355

19 February 2015

NOTIFICATION

Nomination of experts to the Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology (action required by 31 March 2015)

Dear Madam/Sir,

In decision XII/24¹, the Conference of the Parties established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Synthetic Biology with terms of reference contained in the annex to the decision, and requested the Executive Secretary to convene a moderated open-ended online forum to support the work of the AHTEG. In that same decision, the Conference of the Parties also invited Parties, other Governments, relevant international organizations, indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders to submit information on synthetic biology to the Executive Secretary.²

To implement the various elements of the decision in a systematic manner, the Secretariat is establishing a continuous process comprising: (i) submission of information on synthetic biology; (ii) an open-ended online forum with online discussions on specific topics; (iii) one face-to-face meeting of the AHTEG; and (iv) peer-review of the outcomes of the AHTEG. The outcomes of this process will be submitted for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its twentieth meeting to be held in Montreal, Canada from 25 April to 7 May 2016. A tentative calendar of activities for the process is available at https://bch.cbd.int/calendar_synbio.shtml.

Accordingly, I am pleased to invite Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous people and local communities to nominate experts to participate in the Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology.

CBD National Focal Points or Heads of organizations, as appropriate, are kindly requested to submit nominations for experts via e-mail to synbio@cbd.int clearly indicating the names and emails of each nominee. Nominees will be subsequently contacted by the Secretariat to facilitate their registration in the Open-ended Online Forum by completing an online form outlining their experience in the field of synthetic biology.

The Online Forum is open to all interested participants but they must be registered in the Online Forum in order to contribute to the online discussions. The outcomes of the online discussions will serve as a basis for the deliberations by the AHTEG on Synthetic Biology.

¹ Full text of the decision can be found at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-12/cop-12-dec-24-en.pdf>.

² A notification inviting the submission of information on synthetic biology was issued on 6 February 2015 and is available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2015/ntf-2015-013-synthetic-biology-en.pdf>.

To: CBD National Focal Points; relevant organizations; and indigenous people and local communities
cc: SBSTTA National Focal Points, Cartagena Protocol National Focal Points, Nagoya Protocol Focal Points



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Members of the AHTEG on Synthetic Biology will be selected by the Secretariat, in consultation with the SBSTTA Bureau, from among those experts nominated by Parties, on the basis of their expertise, participation in the Open-ended Online Forum and taking into account geographic distribution and gender balance, in accordance with the consolidated *modus operandi* of the SBSTTA. The AHTEG will be composed of 5 to 8 experts nominated by each of the five regions. A limited number of experts from among those nominated by other Governments, indigenous people and local communities and relevant organizations will be invited to take part in the AHTEG as observers.

Nominations of experts to the Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology will be accepted on an ongoing basis. However, the nominations must be received before **31 March 2015** in order for the nominees to be considered as candidates for the AHTEG on Synthetic Biology.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary