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22 January 2016

NOTIFICATION

“Friends of the CBD” workshop on mechanisms to support review of implementation of the Convention

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to inform you that a workshop of the “Friends of the CBD” will be held on 21-23 March 2016, in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland. The workshop will bring together, in an informal setting, members of the COP Bureau and other experts from Parties and organizations to brainstorm possible ways to strengthen the review of implementation under the Convention. Further information is appended to this notification. The report of the workshop will be made available as an information document for the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

I, therefore, invite Parties to nominate experts to participate in this workshop. Nominees should have experience in the implementation of the Convention and/or experience in review of implementation of multilateral environmental agreements.

Thanks to the generous support of the Government of Switzerland, financial support is available for the participation of a limited number of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

Nominations are to be sent to the Executive Secretary via e-mail at secretariat@cbd.int or by fax at +1-514-288-6588. In order to enable the Secretariat to finalize arrangements for the workshop in a timely manner, it would be appreciated if nominations are sent as soon as possible but **no later than 5 February 2016**.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

To: CBD National Focal Points and relevant organizations



Convention on
Biological Diversity

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“Friends of the Convention on Biological Diversity” workshop on mechanisms to support review of implementation of the Convention

Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland, 21 – 23 March 2016

The 4th edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, as well as the updated information on the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets that will be made available to the 20th meeting of SBSTTA and the first meeting of Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI), underscore the need to urgently scale up efforts to implement the Strategic Plan for 2011-2020 if the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are to be met by 2020 and the implementation of the Convention is to be advanced. For many years, Parties and the Executive Secretary have advocated a focus on implementation under the Convention and the recent establishment of SBI provides a unique opportunity to further enhance the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The terms of reference for SBI were adopted by decision XII/26. For the current decade, the work of SBI should support the COP in reviewing progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for 2011-2020 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (decision XII/26, para 5).

The Friends of the CBD workshop, to be hosted with the generous support of the Government of Switzerland provides an ideal opportunity for discussions in an informal setting among experts from governments and other partners of possible approaches to enhance review of implementation.

The overall question for discussion is: ***“What existing or new mechanisms under the Convention could be used to strengthen implementation of the Convention by enhancing review?”*** Specifically, the workshop will address the following:

1. *What can we learn from the experience of other processes in this regard?*

The experiences of processes under other international processes including the UNFCCC, OECD and the biodiversity-related conventions will be presented. Evidence for the effectiveness of review processes will be considered.

2. *How can we build upon existing processes under the Convention?*

The experiences of the reporting process under the Convention and its protocols, and the recently-launched voluntary peer-review process, including possible options for next steps, will be presented and discussed.

3. *What further elements for a review process could be developed?*

The ideas and options contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on the matter will be presented and participants will be invited to discuss these in light of other processes under the work of the Convention and its protocols, and to identify opportunities for alignment and streamlining. The need for possible inter-sessional mechanisms and processes will also be considered.

4. *How can Parties further strengthen review of implementation at the national level?*

Experiences of Parties in audits and related national processes will be reviewed.

Ensuring regional balance, approximately 40 participants would include the members of the COP Bureau and other government representatives, including representatives of the government that shall serve as the next COP President (Mexico). Participants would also include experts from other conventions and organizations that can present relevant experience, including from the UNCCD, UNFCCC, the OECD, and the Ozone Secretariat, and the biodiversity-related conventions and Rio Conventions. The workshop will be supported by a facilitator, and background documents for the participants will be made available to participants at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

The main outcome will be a report compiling views and perspectives of the participants to facilitate subsequent discussions at SBI and afterwards. The report of the meeting would be made available as an information note for SBI.