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21 March 2016

NOTIFICATION

Registration and Visas for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols 4–17 December 2016 - Cancun, Mexico

Dear Madam/Sir,

As you are aware, the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 13), the eighth meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, will be held in Cancun, Mexico from 4 to 17 December 2016. These meetings will be preceded by a High-level Segment that will take place on 2 - 3 December 2016. The provisional agendas of the meetings are available on the CBD website¹. The annotated agenda, other pre-session documentation and the information note for participants will also be made available on the CBD website.

Pre-registration for these meetings is now open and is highly recommended, especially for participants who require an entry visa to Mexico and for those seeking financial support.

As Mexican Immigration Laws and Regulations require the physical presence of visa applicants at the visa issuing posts, early registration and arrangements are recommended, especially for participants who require an entry visa to Mexico and for those seeking financial support. Please note also that Mexico does not offer visas upon arrival.

A list of countries for which an entry visa is required can be found in Annex A, attached to the present notification. However, foreign nationals of the countries listed in Annex A, who hold a valid passport and have any of the following documents do not require an entry visa to Mexico:

- (a) A document certifying permanent residence in Canada, United States of America, Japan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, or any of the countries of the Schengen Area;
- (b) APEC Business Traveller Card (ABTC) approved by Mexico; and
- (c) A valid multiple entry visa from the United States of America.

The Secretariat, in cooperation with the Consulate General of Mexico in Montreal, is making arrangements for the processing of visas during the forthcoming meetings of SBSTTA 20 and SBI 1. Information on the documentation required for Mexico's visa applications in Montreal can be found at: http://consulmex.sre.gob.mx/montreal/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=165.

To: All CBD, ABS, CPB National Focal Points



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In order to initiate visa operations, participants must first be pre-registered to the meetings. To pre-register, Parties and other governments must submit an official letter of nomination addressed to the Executive Secretary, by e-mail at secretariat@cbd.int, clearly indicating the names, contact information and passport number of each representative. Nomination letters should be received by the Secretariat no later than **30 September 2016**. After validation, delegates will receive an automated e-mail message that will include: (i) a “Priority Pass” (confirmation of pre-registration); and (ii) a visa assistance letter which need to be submitted together with the visa application.

Subject to the availability of contributions to the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating Participation of Parties in the Convention process established by Decision III/24, and in accordance with the interim policy adopted by the Bureau in this regard, the Secretariat expects to be in a position to finance the participation of a representative from eligible countries. Eligible Parties to the Convention wishing to solicit such assistance are kindly requested to inform the Secretariat of the name and contact information of the designated representative to receive financial support as soon as possible but no later than **31 May 2016**. Please note that the Secretariat will be unable to respond positively to requests for financial support after this deadline.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

¹<https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=COP-13>
<https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=MOP-08>
<https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=NP-MOP-02>

ANNEX A - List of Countries and Territories which **require** a visa to visit or transit Mexico

A	Guinea-Bissau*	Philippines
Afghanistan*	Guyana	Q
Albania*	H	Qatar
Algeria	Haiti	R
Angola*	Holy See (Apostolic Nunciature)*	Russian Federation
Antigua and Barbuda*	Honduras	Rwanda*
Armenia*	I	S
Azerbaijan	India	Saint Lucia
B	Indonesia	Saint Kitts and Nevis*
Bahrain*	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Saint Vincent and Grenadines*
Bangladesh*	Iraq*	Samoa*
Belarus*	J	Sao Tomé e Príncipe*
Benin*	Jordan*	Saudi Arabia
Bhutan*	K	Senegal*
Bolivia	Kazakhstan*	Serbia
Bosnia and Herzegovina*	Kenya	Seychelles*
Botswana*	Kiribati*	Sierra Leone*
Brunei Darussalam*	Korea, Democratic People's Republic of*	Solomon Islands*
Burkina Faso*	Kuwait	Somalia*
Burundi*	Kyrgyzstan*	South Africa
C	L	South Sudan*
Cabo Verde*	Lao, People's Democratic Republic of*	Sri Lanka*
Cambodia*	Lebanon	Sudan*
Cameroon*	Lesotho*	Suriname*
Central African Republic*	Liberia*	Swaziland*
Chad*	Libya*	Syrian Arab Republic*
China	M	T
Comoros*	Madagascar*	Tajikistan*
Congo, Democratic Republic of*	Malawi*	Tanzania, United Republic of *
Congo, Republic of*	Maldives*	Thailand
Costa Rica	Mali*	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*
Cote d'Ivoire*	Mauritania*	Togo*
Croatia*	Mauritius*	Tonga*
Cuba	Micronesia*	Tunisia *
D	Moldova*	Turkey
Djibouti*	Mongolia*	Turkmenistan*
Dominica*	Montenegro*	Tuvalu*
Dominican Republic	Moroco*	U
E	Mozambique*	Uganda*
East Timor*	Myanmar*	Ukraine
Ecuador	N	United Arab Emirates
Egypt	Namibia*	Uzbekistan*
El Salvador	Nauru*	V
Equatorial Guinea*	Nepal*	Vanuatu*
Eritrea*	Nicaragua	Venezuela
Ethiopia	Niger*	Viet-Nam
F	Nigeria	Y
Fiji*	O	Yemen*
G	Oman*	Z
Gabon*	P	Zambia*
Gambia*	Pakistan*	Zimbabwe*
Georgia*	Palestinian Authority*	
Ghana	Papua New Guinea*	
Grenada*		
Guatemala		
Guinea*		

*Indicates countries where there are no Mexican visa offices and application needs to be submitted to a visa office in a third country.

Disclaimer: The above list reflects data that may not be fully up-to-date. Please refer to the nearest Mexican visa office for confirmation and details on requirements for visa applications.