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12 July 2016

NOTIFICATION

High-Level Segment of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Dear Madam/Sir,

As you know, the Government of the United Mexican States will host the high-level segment of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-13) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on 2-3 December 2016, in Cancun, Mexico.

I am pleased to attach the provisional agenda for the high-level segment, provided by the Government of the United Mexican States, and developed in consultation with the Secretariat of the CBD. The provisional agenda is available in the official languages of the United Nations on the CBD website¹. A more detailed agenda along with background documents for relevant discussions will be made available in due course.

One of the major expected outcomes of the high-level segment will be a political declaration. The Government of the United Mexican States will circulate a draft of the Cancun Declaration for your consideration shortly.

Further to notification 2016-072 issued on 6 June 2016, I would like to take the opportunity to remind Parties that have not yet done so to kindly confirm their participation in the high-level segment to juan.mateos@semarnat.gob.mx and enrique.lendo@semarnat.gob.mx.

Finally, I would like to call your attention to a brochure with general information on COP-13 at: <http://cop13.mx/en/resources/>.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/cop/preparation/cop13-hls/default.shtml>

To : CBD National Focal Points



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COP 13
Convention on Biological Diversity
HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT
2-3 December, 2016
Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico

The high-level segment, organized by the Government of Mexico in consultation with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), will take place on 2 and 3 December 2016.

It will set the scene and provide the necessary political impetus to make progress on specific issues, and to discuss challenges and opportunities. In addition to the Ministers responsible for issues relating to the CBD, the high-level segment will benefit from the participation of Ministers from other sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, as well as other guests.

As host of COP-13, Mexico adopted as the central theme “Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Well-being”, with a focus on plans, programs, and sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, particularly in the sectors of agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism. The focus on mainstreaming aims to reduce, prevent and mitigate the negative impacts of the activities of these sectors on biodiversity and promote the positive ones, so as to ensure that healthy and resilient ecosystems continue to provide essential services for human well-being and for the planet, thus contributing to the objectives of the CBD, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

The outcomes expected at the high-level segment are:

- A report to the COP-13 Presidency
- Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration

The discussions will take place in plenary sessions and roundtables on each of the above-mentioned sectors, where Ministers will participate as panelists. Simultaneous interpretation in the six official languages of the United Nations will be available throughout the event.



Provisional Agenda

Thursday 1 December

Arrival of participants

Friday 2 December

Opening Ceremony and plenary (10:00-13:00)

The opening plenary will set the scene and will provide the context for the subsequent discussions, and it will include:

- Welcome remarks by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Mexico, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Key note presentations from the Director General, or their representatives, of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations World Tourism Organization
- Recess
- Other interventions from representatives

Lunch break (13:00-15:00)

Parallel sectoral discussion roundtables (15:00-18:00)

- Agriculture
- Tourism

Dinner (20:00)

- Offered to Ministers or heads of delegation and other guests

Saturday 3 December

Parallel sectoral discussion roundtables (10:00-13:00)

- Forestry
- Fisheries

Lunch (13:00-15:00)

- Offered to Ministers



Group Photo (15:00-15:30)

Closing Plenary (15:30-18:00)

- Presentation of the report to the COP-13
- Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration
- Closing remarks

Sunday 4 December

For the Ministers staying in Cancun and who wish to participate:

- A field visit to a protected area will be organized (morning)
- Official Opening Ceremony of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (afternoon)
- Reception for all the participants of COP-13 (evening)