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1 May 2017

NOTIFICATION

Nomination of experts to participate in the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Socio-Economic Considerations and submission of information (Article 26 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety)

Dear Madam/Sir,

Through this notification, Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities are invited to nominate experts to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Socio-Economic Considerations and to submit relevant information to prepare for its work.

Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group

In its decision BS-VI/13, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP) decided to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Socio-Economic Considerations (AHTEG) to be composed of five to eight experts per region, selected on the basis of nominations by Parties, and at least five but no more than ten participants in total representing non Parties, United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, relevant organizations and indigenous and local communities to participate as observers.

In decision CP-VIII/13, the COP-MOP decided to extend the mandate of the AHTEG, replacing any experts, as needed, including indigenous peoples and local communities, to allow it to meet face-to-face, subject to the availability of funds, to work on the guidelines envisaged under the outcomes of operational objective 1.7 of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Following consultations, the Secretariat determined that a number of experts were no longer available to serve on the AHTEG. Accordingly, I am pleased to invite nominations of experts to the AHTEG by Parties from all regions, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities. In accordance with the consolidated modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Secretariat, in consultation with the COP-MOP Bureau, will select new experts and confirm the revised membership of the AHTEG.

Pending confirmation of the availability of financial resources, a meeting of the AHTEG will take place tentatively from 9 to 13 October 2017. The Secretariat will cover the cost of selected experts from eligible Parties. This includes a round-trip air ticket on the most economical route and daily subsistence allowance for the duration of the meeting. Please note that the working language of the meeting will be English.

To: Cartagena Protocol National Focal Points, CBD National Focal Points (where CPB focal points have not yet been designated), relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities

In order to enable the Secretariat to finalize arrangements in time, National Focal Points, heads of organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities are kindly requested to submit nominations of experts competent in the field of socio-economic considerations as soon as possible but **no later than 12 June 2017**. Nominations must be submitted through an official letter addressed to the Executive Secretary. The letter may be sent by fax to +1 514 288 6588, or by e-mail as a scanned attachment to: secretariat@cbd.int.

Submission of information

Furthermore, in decision CP-VIII/15, paragraph 2, COP-MOP encouraged Parties to make use of the Biosafety Clearing-House to share experiences on national processes and best practices related to socio-economic considerations in decision-making related to living modified organisms, as appropriate, and in accordance with national legislation.

In order to prepare for discussions of the AHTEG, Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities are invited, as appropriate, to submit any existing guidance documents on socio-economic considerations, as well as any experience with taking socio-economic considerations into account in decision-making on living modified organisms. Submissions must be made as soon as possible but **no later than 12 June 2017**, through the Biosafety Clearing-House at: <http://bch.cbd.int/managementcentre/edit/submission.shtml> or via e-mail to: secretariat@cbd.int.

I would like to thank you for your kind cooperation and continued support for the work of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

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

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD
Executive Secretary