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20 February 2018

NOTIFICATION

Invitation to nominate experts for the Online Discussion on Public Awareness regarding Living Modified Organisms

Dear Madam/Sir,

The purpose of this notification is to invite National Focal Points to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and representatives from relevant organizations to nominate experts on public awareness of LMOs to participate in the Online Forum on Public Awareness, Education and Participation.

This notification is pursuant to decision BS-V/13, in which the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP) adopted a programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) for the period 2011-2015. In the same decision, the Executive Secretary was requested to establish an online forum and other appropriate means to facilitate exchange of information and experiences on the implementation of the programme of work. Through decision CP-VIII/18, the programme of work was extended until 2020.

Discussions were organized, through the Online Forum on Public Awareness, Education and Participation, on topics focusing on access to information, public participation regarding LMOs, and public education regarding LMOs.

To give continuation to these activities, the Secretariat is organizing an online discussion on “public awareness regarding LMOs”. The discussion will be held under the Online Forum on Public Awareness, Education and Participation from 15 to 30 March 2018. The Online Forum is available at http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_art23/pa_forum.shtml. The outcomes of the discussion will be made available at the COP-MOP at its tenth meeting.

Accordingly, I am pleased to invite Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to nominate experts on public awareness of LMOs. Experts already nominated to participate in the earlier discussions held under the Online Forum are automatically registered for the upcoming discussions and do not need to be re-nominated. Please send your nominations to the Secretariat at secretariat@cbd.int as soon as possible but no later than 9 March 2018.

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

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD
Executive Secretary

To: Cartagena Protocol National Focal Points; relevant organizations; and indigenous peoples and local communities