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25 June 2019

NOTIFICATION

Online format for submission of the fourth national report on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Dear Madam/Sir,

Further to [Notification 2019-019](#), dated 13 February 2019, inviting Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to submit their fourth national report on the implementation of the Protocol, I am pleased to inform you that the online version of the reporting format is now available in the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH).

The online format has been made available through a preview version of the new BCH platform that is being developed as part of the migration of the BCH, and is accessible at the following address: <https://beta.bch.cbd.int/register/NR4> (log-in is required with existing BCH user account). The preview version of the new BCH is for the submission of fourth national reports only. The regular BCH platform will continue to be used for all other functions until the migration is complete. Further information on the migration will be provided in due course.

Deadline for submission of fourth national report

Parties are reminded to submit their fourth national report as soon as possible and no later than **1 October 2019**, in an official language of the United Nations.

The timely submission of fourth national reports is critical for facilitating the fourth assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol and the final evaluation of the Strategic Plan for the Protocol as provided in decision CP-9/6.

Tools to support completion and submission of fourth national report

Parties are encouraged to use the offline version of the reporting format (available in all six official languages of the United Nations at: <http://bch.cbd.int/resources/common-formats/>) to gather and organize information prior to online submission. National Focal Points with limited Internet access may submit the completed offline form in Microsoft Word format directly to the Secretariat as an attachment to an e-mail together with a scanned copy of the first page signed.

Parties are also encouraged to prepare their reports through a consultative process involving all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, and respond to all questions in the reporting format since complete information is required both for the fourth assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol and the final evaluation of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is preparing a project for funding by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support eligible Parties in the preparation and submission of their

To: Cartagena Protocol National Focal Points, CBD National Focal Points (where CPB Focal Points have not yet been designated), BCH Focal Points

fourth national reports on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (see also [notification 2019-042](#)). Eligible Parties are encouraged to submit a letter of commitment signed by their GEF operational focal point and expressing their support for the project. The letter should be submitted to UNEP through Mr. Alex Owusu-Biney (alex.owusu-biney@un.org) **as soon as possible**.

A web page with information on frequently asked questions related to the fourth national reports is also available at: <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/national-report-faq>.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and 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