



Ref.: SCBD/CPU/DC/KG/AB/87939

4 November 2019

NOTIFICATION

REMINDER: Submission of the fourth national report on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Dear Madam/Sir,

Reference is made to [Notifications 2019-019](#) and [2019-055](#), dated 13 February and 25 June 2019 respectively, inviting Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to submit their fourth national report on the implementation of the Protocol.

Deadline for submission of fourth national report

In accordance with decision CP-9/5 (paragraph 5) of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, the deadline for the submission of fourth national reports was **1 October 2019**. I would like to thank those Parties that have already submitted their fourth national reports and kindly remind the Parties that have not yet done so to submit their reports as soon as possible 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. The cutoff date for reports that will be considered in the analysis for assessment and review and the final evaluation of the Strategic Plan is **15 December 2019**. Any reports received after this date will not be included in the analysis. Information provided in the fourth national reports will also be important with respect to informing the development of the post-2020 implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol and related processes.

The Compliance Committee will review compliance with the obligation to submit national reports, as well as the completeness of the reports, at its seventeenth meeting to be held in early 2020.

Tools to submit fourth national report

Reports can be submitted online through the preview version of the new platform of the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) accessible at the following address: <https://beta.bch.cbd.int/register/NR4>. Parties are also 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 signed first page.

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

Parties are encouraged to consult the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that are now available in all six official languages of the United Nations in the preview version of the new BCH platform at the following address: <https://beta.bch.cbd.int/en/articles/5d2cdcd0620471000183573f>. The FAQs contain detailed information on how to register the fourth national report through the new BCH platform with a view to assisting users with easy submission of the report online.

Status of financial support for preparation of fourth national report

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has prepared a project for funding by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to assist eligible Parties in the preparation of their reports. The deadline to submit letters of commitment was 1 October 2019; however, eligible Parties that have not submitted their letters of commitment may still submit their letters and are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

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.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Officer-in-Charge