

NOTIFICATION

Nomination of experts for the Online Discussion on Biosafety Commitments from Non-State Actors for the Action Agenda for Nature and People

Dear Madam/Sir,

In decision [BS-V/13](#), 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). In the same decision, the Executive Secretary was invited to establish an online forum and other appropriate means to facilitate exchange of information and experiences on the implementation of the programme of work.

Pursuant to this decision, the Secretariat is organizing online discussions on facilitating and cooperating on biosafety non-state actors' engagement for the Action Agenda for Nature and People to mobilize support for the Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which will be held from 27 September to 10 October 2021 in the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH).

Launched in November 2018 by the Governments of Egypt and China, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People (Action Agenda) serves as a global mechanism to inspire, connect and mobilize actions for biodiversity, including biosafety, in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Information about the Action Agenda is available at www.cbd.int/action-agenda/.

Over the years, the Secretariat has hosted four online forums on public awareness, education and participation, including access to information, concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs, involving a number of non-state actors. To continue facilitating the exchange of information and sharing of experiences and lessons learned, the Secretariat will be convening online discussions through the Online Portal on Article 23 in the BCH, from 27 September to 10 October 2021. The Secretariat will also host a short introductory webinar regarding the Action Agenda and existing biosafety commitments on 27 September 2021. The online discussions and the webinar link will be available at: https://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_art23/actionagendaforum/.

Accordingly, I am pleased to invite Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous peoples and local communities to nominate experts and interested focal points. Please send your nominations through an official letter to the Executive Secretary, by e-mail to secretariat@cbd.int as soon as possible but no later than **20 September 2021**. Experts already nominated to participate in the earlier discussions held under the Online Portal on Article 23 are automatically registered for the upcoming discussions and do not need to be re-nominated.

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

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Executive Secretary

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