

NOTIFICATION

Risk Assessment and Risk Management under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: submission of information and Online Forum

Dear Madam/Sir,

In decision CP-10/10, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP) decided among other things, to establish an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment (AHTEG) to work in accordance with the terms of reference annexed to the decision. It also requested the Executive Secretary to convene online discussions of the Online Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management to review an outline of the additional voluntary guidance materials and to support the work of the AHTEG. Likewise, the same decision invited Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations to submit to the Executive Secretary information relevant to the work of the AHTEG, and invited Parties to also submit information on their needs and priorities for further guidance materials on specific topics of risk assessment of living modified organisms, including a rationale following the criteria set out in decision CP-9/13, annex I. The COP-MOP also requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its twenty-sixth meeting, to consider the outcomes of the AHTEG and prepare a recommendation to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol.

Accordingly, at this stage, I am pleased to invite Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations to participate in the following processes:

Submission of information

Pursuant to paragraph 7 of decision CP-10/10, Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations are invited to submit information relevant to the work of the AHTEG. A template for submitting information pursuant to paragraph 7 is available at the following link: https://bch.cbd.int/protocol/risk_assessment/template_submit_info_cp1010_para7.docx.

In addition, pursuant to paragraph 8 of the same decision, Parties are also invited to submit information related to their needs and priorities for further guidance materials on specific topics of risk assessment of living modified organisms, including a rationale following the criteria set out in decision CP-9/13, annex I. A template for submitting information pursuant to paragraph 8 is available at the following link: https://bch.cbd.int/protocol/risk_assessment/template_submit_info_cp1010_para8.docx.

Parties and stakeholders are encouraged to submit this information through the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) using the Submission (SUB) common format accessible at the following page: <https://bch.cbd.int/en/register/SUB/new>. Full instructions on how to upload your submission are provided at the following link: https://bch.cbd.int/protocol/risk_assessment/instructions_submit_info_bch.docx. In addition, please submit the information using the templates provided above, which will facilitate the work of the Secretariat in, among other things, making information pursuant to paragraph 8 of decision CP-10/10 available on a dedicated page on the BCH in due course. Only submissions using these templates will be considered. Please also note that submissions from Parties should be made through the National Focal Points of the Cartagena Protocol. In the case of organizations, information should be submitted through the Heads of organizations. Kindly submit your information as soon as possible but **no later than 15 March 2023**.

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

Online Forum

Pursuant to paragraph 10 (b), Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations are invited to nominate experts to participate in the first round of discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum on Risk Assessment, which will take place from 10 to 21 April 2023. These discussions will allow sharing of information that would inform the development of the outline of additional guidance materials on risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives. Information on a second round of discussions of the Online Forum will be provided at a later date.

Cartagena Protocol National Focal Points or Heads of organizations, as appropriate, are kindly requested to submit nominations of experts via e-mail to secretariat@cbd.int clearly indicating the names and e-mails of each nominee and a brief description of their relevant experience in the field of risk assessment, organisms containing engineered gene drives and/or related fields. In line with decision [14/33](#), nominees are also required to complete the interest disclosure form.¹

Nominees will be subsequently contacted by the Secretariat to facilitate their registration and participation in the Open-ended Online Forum. The Online Forum is open to all interested participants, but they must be registered in order to contribute to the online discussions. Nominations of experts to the Open-ended Online Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management must be received before **15 March 2023**. Information on how to access the forum will be provided in due course through the following link <https://bch.cbd.int/portals/risk-assessment>.

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

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Executive Secretary

¹ Available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/forms/conflict-interest-form-en.pdf>