



NOTIFICATION
Online discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology

Dear Sir or Madam,

In decision [15/31](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity established a process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology and agreed to start its work. In addition, the Conference of the Parties decided to establish a multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology (multidisciplinary AHTEG) to support the process for broad and regular horizon scanning, and requested the Executive Secretary to convene online discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology to support the work of the multidisciplinary AHTEG.

At its first meeting in July 2023, the multidisciplinary AHTEG agreed on a process of horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology for the 2023-2024 intersessional period¹. The process consists of multidisciplinary expert-driven submissions and a literature review, followed by the assessment and reporting steps, which will occur at the next meeting of the multidisciplinary AHTEG. Following the submission process, the multidisciplinary AHTEG identified seventeen (17) trends and issues in synthetic biology, five (5) of which were identified for more in-depth information gathering.

Accordingly, I am pleased to announce that the next round of discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology will be held from **6 to 15 November 2023**. Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations will not need to re-nominate or re-confirm their nominees from the discussions held in March 2023. For new nominations, CBD 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 name and e-mail address of each nominee and enclosing a brief description of their relevant experience in the field of synthetic biology.

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. Information on how to access the Online Forum will be provided in due course through the following link: <https://www.cbd.int/synbio>.

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

(Signed) David Cooper
Acting Executive Secretary

¹ As found in the report of the meeting: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SYNBIO-AHTEG-2023-01>

To: CBD national focal points, relevant organizations, and indigenous peoples and local communities
cc: SBSTTA national focal points, Cartagena Protocol national focal points, ABS Protocol focal points

