

NOTIFICATION

Discussions of the Open-Ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology

Dear Sir or Madam,

In decision [16/21](#), the Conference of the Parties established a new ad hoc technical expert group on synthetic biology, which was tasked with (i) reviewing and synthesizing the information presented during the intersessional period; (ii) identifying the current and potential benefits of synthetic biology; (iii) identifying the potential negative impacts of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology; (iv) identifying the potential negative impacts of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology; and (v) providing advice on how capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing in synthetic biology can be taken into account with respect to the draft thematic action plan, in light of future developments of synthetic biology.

In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to convene online discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology in order to support the work of the new Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology.

In response to this request, I would like to invite Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and relevant stakeholders to nominate experts to participate in the Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology, which will take place from 23 February to 6 March 2026. Accordingly, 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. Nominations of experts to the Open-Ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology must be received by **13 February 2026**.

Kindly note that there is no need to re-nominate experts that have been previously nominated for the online forum, as nominations from the previous intersessional period (2023-2024) remain valid unless the Secretariat is advised by the national focal point, or Head of organization, that those experts are no longer endorsed. The list of currently registered participants is available at https://www.cbd.int/synbio/past_activities/open-ended_online_forum/participants.

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. Further information regarding the Online Forum will be provided in due course through the following link: <https://www.cbd.int/synbio>.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support towards the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

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

(Signed) Astrid Schomaker
Executive Secretary

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