

**Subject:** CBD Forum update

**From:** Benjamin Robinson <Ben@emergingag.com>

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**CC:** Morgane Danielou <Morgane@emergingag.com>

Hi all,

As a reminder, please note that discussion on the 1<sup>st</sup> topic of the forum (“Reviewing recent technological developments within the field of synthetic biology to assess if the developments could lead to impacts on biodiversity and the three objectives of the Convention, including unexpected and significant impacts”) will be closed on **Monday July 17<sup>th</sup>**. Any final points you would like to make must therefore be submitted today, or over the weekend.

**Points you may wish to address:**

- Eva Sirinathsinghji, Third World Network: <https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/open-ended/discussion/?threadid=8384#8523>
- Edward Hammond, Third World Network: <https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/open-ended/discussion/?threadid=8384#8535>
  - Both posts call for a moratorium on gene drive research, citing knowledge gaps, environmental risks, socio-economic risks, gene-transfer to non-target species, off-target effects, inadequate containment measures, and weaponized applications.
  - **Please note that there have been several responses noting that a moratorium is not necessary and could be potentially harmful at this stage, that a case by cases analysis of the risks and benefits involved with each project would be more appropriate, and that in many contexts mechanisms and procedures exist to ensure that projects adopt the requisite biosafety and containment measures. It may be useful to chime in in support. Some examples are:**
    - Mark Benedict, CDC: <https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/open-ended/discussion/?threadid=8384#8528>
    - Zach Adelman, Texas A & M University: <https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/open-ended/discussion/?threadid=8384#8532>
      - <https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/open-ended/discussion/?threadid=8384#8536>
    - Luke Alphey, Pirbright Institute: <https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/open-ended/discussion/?threadid=8384#8538>

**Summary of other developments:**

- Elsewhere, several representatives of national governments have made statements to the effect that current risk assessment methodologies in place are adequate to manage applications of synthetic biology, including:
  - Germany: <https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/open-ended/discussion/?threadid=8365#8533>
  - USA: <https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/open-ended/discussion/?threadid=8365#8550>
  - New Zealand: <https://bch.cbd.int/synbio/open-ended/discussion/?threadid=8365#8553>

Regards,  
Ben



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**CBD Online Forum on Synthetic Biology will take place soon!** Experts should [register online](#) to participate.

Contact us if you require assistance.

Supporter of the Manyinga orphan schools project – find out more at [www.manyinga.org](http://www.manyinga.org)