

**Subject:** CBD online forum - schedule announced - starting July 3

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Dear all

The CBD secretariat just published the [schedule of the online](#) forum. It will start on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and it will be divided in 4 sessions to cover the 5 topics outlined in the decision text adopted at CBD. I have copied the relevant text from the decision below, although it is likely that it will be reformulated and broken down by the moderators to make it more suitable for the online forum. Gene drive is likely to come up in the very first weeks as well as under the third set (topics 3 and 4) but could pop up throughout.

In light of this we need a few decisions:

- 1- The proposal is that my team (Ben Robinson and another team member tbc) will monitor the conversation and send the group regular updates and signal when it would be useful to see more engagement. This is meant to help everyone not spend hours on the sites figuring out what's happening, but of course doesn't preclude anyone from doing so. My team can also relay any concerns, warnings or call for engagement that you wish to share.
- 2- We are also happy to share these updates with the broader group of people who have registered for the online forum. **If you would prefer that the people you reached out to be excluded from these updates, please let me know as soon as possible and no later than Friday.** Otherwise we will simply send everyone updates.
- 3- I will proceed to email everyone who has registered to offer a briefing session for participants— I will offer a few different times to try to ensure people in different time zones can join. For those of you who have participated in the past online forum, I'd welcome your help in sharing information about how these online forum typically play out. If you indicate as per above that you do not wish to see your contacts included in the mailing list, I will not reach out to them to join the briefing calls.
- 4- If you wish to **see anyone added**, please make sure their names and contacts (email) are in the first tab of excel sheet tracking registration) or simply email Ben. If you have trouble accessing the file, please let Ben know (ben@emergingag.com): <https://www.dropbox.com/s/vqc6ncgdhv8sqcf/cbd%20syn%20bio%20ahteg%20online%20forum%20outreach%20tracking%20sheet.xlsx?dl=0>

## TOPICS & SCHEDULE

**3-17 July** Topic 1: **Review 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

**17-31 July** Topic 2: Identify any living organisms already developed or currently under research and development through techniques of synthetic biology which do not fall under the definition of living modified organisms under the Cartagena Protocol;

**4-18 Sept** Topic 3: Further **analyse evidence of benefits and adverse effects of organisms**, components and products of synthetic biology vis-à-vis the three objectives of the Convention, and **gather information on risk management measures, safe use and best practices for safe handling** of organisms, components and products of synthetic biology AND topic 4: In order to avoid or minimize any potential negative effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, **evaluate the availability of tools to detect and monitor** the organisms, components and products of synthetic biology;

**18 Sept-2 Oct** Topic 5: provide recommendations on the basis of its deliberations to facilitate future discussions and actions on synthetic biology under the Convention, as well as an analysis against the criteria set out in paragraph 12 of decision IX/29 to contribute to the completion of the assessment requested in paragraph 2 of decision XII/24 by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

Best,  
Isabelle