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8 June 2017

NOTIFICATION

Nomination of experts to participate in the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology

Dear Madam/Sir,

In decision XIII/17, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity extended the mandate of the ad hoc technical expert group (AHTEG) on synthetic biology, as established in decision XII/24, with new terms of reference, and also extended the open-ended online forum to support the work of the AHTEG.

Following consultations with relevant stakeholders, it was determined that a number of experts were no longer available to serve on the AHTEG. Accordingly, I am pleased to invite Parties to nominate experts to the AHTEG. The Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, will select new experts on the basis of their expertise, participation in the open-ended online forum and taking into account geographic distribution and gender balance.

Experts nominated for the AHTEG will also be registered to take part in the upcoming discussions of the Online Forum on Synthetic Biology. The outcomes of the online discussions will serve as a basis for the deliberations by the AHTEG at its face-to-face meeting, which is scheduled to take place from 5 to 8 December 2017.

In order to enable the Secretariat to finalize arrangements in time, National Focal Points to the Convention are kindly requested to submit nominations of experts as soon as possible, but **no later than 30 June 2017**, via e-mail to synbio@cbd.int clearly indicating the name and email address of each nominee. Nominees will be subsequently contacted by the Secretariat to facilitate their registration in the Open-ended Online Forum.

Experts who have already been nominated to the Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology must not be re-nominated to take part in the AHTEG as their nominations will also be considered.

I would like to thank you for your kind cooperation and continued support for the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD
Executive Secretary

To: CBD National Focal Points

cc: SBSTTA National Focal Points, Cartagena Protocol National Focal Points, Nagoya Protocol Focal Points