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9 February 2012

NOTIFICATION

Online Forum on Strategic Approaches to Capacity-building for Biosafety and the Comprehensive Review of the Capacity-Building Action Plan

Madam/Sir,

In decision BS-V/3, the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety endorsed the terms of reference for the comprehensive review of the updated Action Plan on Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol. As part of the review process, the Executive Secretary was requested to commission an independent evaluation of the Action Plan. Furthermore, in the same decision, the Executive Secretary was requested to organize an online forum to discuss strategic approaches to capacity-building and to develop frameworks for capacity assessment and for monitoring and evaluation of capacity-building initiatives, and submit the outcomes to the Parties at their sixth meeting.

I am pleased to announce that, pursuant to the above decisions, an *Online Forum on Strategic Approaches to Capacity-building for Biosafety and the Comprehensive Review of the Capacity-Building Action Plan* has been launched through the Biosafety Clearing-House at: http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_art22/cbforum2012.shtml. I am also pleased to inform you that the draft report on the independent evaluation of the Action Plan, prepared by the Consultant commissioned by the Secretariat, is now available for comments through the Forum.

The Forum, which is organized into five discussion groups, will **commence on 20 February 2012** with discussions on the draft Action Plan evaluation report and **end on 4 May 2012**. The full timetable is available at: http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_art22/cbforum2012_focus.shtml#schedule.

I would like to invite you to nominate participants to take part in the Forum. Instructions on how to sign-up and participate in the Forum are available on the Forum website. I look forward to your valuable input and feedback.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

To: National Focal Points for the Cartagena Protocol of Biosafety (CPB-NFPs); CBD National Focal Points where CPB-NFPs have not yet been designated; and Relevant Organizations