

13 January 2003

Ref: SCBD/SEL/DO/32985

Dear Madam/Sir,

NOTIFICATION**Re: Decision VI/11: Liability and Redress (Article 14, paragraph 2).**

I wish to draw your attention to decision VI/11 adopted by the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity which took place in The Hague, The Netherlands, in April 2002.

By paragraph 1 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to convene a group of legal and technical experts composed of government-nominated experts based on a fair and equitable geographical representation and including observers from relevant international organizations, including non-governmental organizations and convention secretariats. The mandate of the group of legal and technical experts is to review information gathered by the Executive Secretary in accordance with paragraph 2 of decision VI/11 and conduct further analysis of pertinent issues relating to liability and redress in the context of paragraph 2 of Article 14 of the Convention, and in particular:

- Clarifying basic concepts and developing definitions relevant to paragraph 2 of Article 14;
- Proposing possible introduction of elements, as appropriate, to address specifically liability and redress relating to damage to biological diversity into existing liability and redress regimes;
- Examining the appropriateness of a liability and redress regime under the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as exploring issues relating to restoration and compensation;
- Analysing activities and situations that contribute to damage to biological diversity, including situations of potential concern; and
- Considering preventive measures on the basis of the responsibility recognized under Article 3 of the Convention.

I have decided, subject to the availability of funds, to convene a group of legal and technical experts, as envisaged in decision VI/11, from 24-26 June 2003. In this regard, I would appreciate it if your Government could submit the names and curriculum vitae of suitably qualified legal and technical experts to the Secretariat no later than **1 March 2003** in order to facilitate the selection of members of the group of experts.

I would also like to take this opportunity to refer you to my letter dated 3 July 2002 requesting your Government, pursuant to paragraph 2 of decision VI/11, to provide the Secretariat with relevant information as specified in that decision. This information is essential background material for the meeting of the group of legal and technical experts and I therefore further urge your Government to submit this information as soon as possible but in any case no later than **1 March 2003**.

To: All CBD National Focal Points



Finally, I wish to underline that the meeting of the group of legal and technical experts is dependent on contributions to the Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BE) specifically earmarked by Parties and Governments for this purpose. The Secretariat has so far not received any contributions from Parties and Governments in this regard.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter and your continued support towards the work of the Convention.

Accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary