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22 May 2019

NOTIFICATION

Preparation and Registration for the Eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (WG8J 11), 20 to 22 November 2019, and Twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 23), 25 to 29 November 2019, in Montreal, Canada

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (WG8J 11) will be held from 20 to 22 November 2019 and the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 23) will be held from 25 to 29 November 2019, at the ICAO Conference Centre in Montreal, Canada.

The pre-session and other relevant documentation for these meetings, as well as the Information Note for Participants, are being made available at the following respective webpages: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=WG8J-11> and <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=SBSTTA-23>.

In addition, a workshop on the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* (GBO-5) will be held on Saturday, 23 November 2019 and a briefing by the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group to support the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be held in the morning of Sunday, 24 November 2019. Both events will be open to all participants of the WG8J 11 and SBSTTA 23 meetings.

In accordance with usual practices, the designation of representatives to attend the WG8J 11 and SBSTTA 23 meetings should be addressed to the CBD Executive Secretary through an official letter of nomination, sent as a scanned attachment, by e-mail to: secretariat@cbd.int or by fax at +1 514-288-6588, by **8 November 2019**. The designated delegates coming from countries that require a visa to enter Canada should contact the nearest Canadian diplomatic or consular mission without delay in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure. Please note that airline companies will not allow boarding in the absence of a valid visa. Information regarding online registration for the meetings will be provided in due course. Early registration is encouraged.

Please note that subject to the availability of contributions to the Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BZ), the Secretariat will be in a position to finance the participation of one representative (in both meetings, i.e. WG8J 11 and SBSTTA 23) from each of the eligible countries, i.e. developing countries Parties to the Convention, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition. Parties to the Convention eligible to receive financial support and wish to solicit such assistance are kindly requested to advise the Secretariat, at their earliest convenience, but no later than **20 September 2019**, of the name and coordinates of their Government's officially designated representative to benefit from such financial support. It will not be possible for the Secretariat to respond positively to request for funding received after this deadline.

To: CBD National Focal Points, SBSTTA Focal Points, relevant organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities

cc: Cartagena Protocol Focal Points and ABS Focal Points

Furthermore, in accordance with the criteria for the operations of the Voluntary Funding Mechanism to facilitate the participation of indigenous and local communities in the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities are invited to submit a request for financial assistance, at their earliest convenience, but no later than **20 August 2019**. Subject to the availability of funds, a list of beneficiaries from the indigenous peoples and local communities will be established and selected participants will be contacted directly by the Secretariat for the travel arrangements.

Due to the increased security procedures for travellers and budget constraints, and with a view to enable the participation of a maximum number of countries in the meetings, the Secretariat will be using special airfare tickets for sponsored delegates that impose restrictions with respect to the changing of passenger's name, travel dates and itinerary. Please note, therefore, that it will not be possible for the Secretariat to accommodate name changes after ticket has been issued.

Thank you for your cooperation and your continued support of the work of the Convention.

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

Cristiana Paşca Palmer, PhD
Executive Secretary