

Peer review of the outcomes and methodology of the process of broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology

Dear Sir or Madam,

In [decision 15/31](#), the Conference of the Parties (COP) established a process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent developments in synthetic biology. In the same decision, the COP also established a multidisciplinary Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Synthetic Biology to support the process. The COP requested the Executive Secretary to prepare reports on the outcomes and operation of the horizon scanning process and to submit those reports for peer review to support the review of the effectiveness of the process by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its meeting prior to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

The multidisciplinary AHTEG met in July 2023, October 2023 and January 2024 to develop a methodology and conduct one cycle of broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment of the most recent technological developments in synthetic biology. The outcomes of the horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment process are available in annex I to [CBD/SBSTTA/26/4](#). The refined methodology updated in light of the experience gained is presented in annex IV of the same document.

Accordingly, I invite Parties and observers to participate in the peer review of the outcomes of the process and the refined methodology by submitting general comments on the information contained in annexes I and IV above, **before 12 April 2024**. These comments will be compiled and presented to the twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to support the review of the process for broad and regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessment.

Kindly send your comments to the Secretariat by e-mail to: secretariat@cbd.int, along with an official letter signed by the CBD national focal point or head of the organization, as appropriate, endorsing the submission.

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

(Signed) David Cooper
Acting Executive Secretary

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

