



Government of Antigua and Barbuda

**The Department of Environment
Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment
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April 9th 2019

Secretariat
Convention of Biological Diversity
413, Saint Jacques Street, suite 800
Montreal QC H2Y 1N9
Canada

Ref: DOE/22/D10/02

Dear Madam

Re: CBD Notification 2019-027 - Overview of the post-2020 process for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda wishes to submit these comments on the post 2020 activities regarding the Cartagena Protocol:

- serious attention should be paid to the status and/or capacity of Parties to pass updated legislation (many of which are available as drafts) and to implement same.
- the Caribbean sub-region has expressed serious concerns with the advent of synthetic biology technology and its impact on niche products. There is a need to focus on the understanding and implications of this concept for the sub-region which has limited capacity to exploit the technology to maintain viable economies, particularly those that would/could be directly affected.
- The issue of labelling remains a very contentious one and discussions must continue with a view to a resolution in the short to medium term.

We will participate in the upcoming regional post 2020 global biodiversity framework process to ensure that these issues are integrated into the outcomes.

Sincerely


Mrs. Diann Black Layne
Chief Environment Officer