**FINLAND 31 May 2016**

**CBD notifications 2015-138 of 21 December 2015 and 2016-058 (reminder) of 12 May 2016:**

**Submission of information requested in decision BS-VII/12 on Risk Assessment and Risk Management**

In the above mentioned notifications the CBD Secretariat invites Parties to submit

1. Any currently available information on the needs and priorities for further guidance on specific topics of risk assessment of living modified organisms; and
2. Information on existing guidance on specific topics of risk assessment of living modified organisms.

Finland would like to provide the following information and comments to this notification.

In relation to any currently available information on the needs and priorities for further guidance on specific topics of risk assessment of living modified organisms:

We strongly support the work of the AHTEG on Risk Assessment and Risk Management. AHTEG’s recommendation to develop outlines for further guidance on two topics (“risk assessment of LM fish” and “risk assessment of LMOs produced through synthetic biology”) provides a good basis for a COP-MOP8 decision on selecting topics for further guidance. We think that both topics are very important. Moreover, our experts have identified two new topics where no or very little risk assessment guidance is available. These two topics are LM soil microbes and LM birds.

In relation to information on existing guidance on specific topics of risk assessment of living modified organisms:

Finland’s regulation and risk assessment guidance is based on the EU Directive 2001/18/EC and its supplementary guidance on risk assessment (2002/623/EU). In addition, EFSA has provided guidance on e.g. risk assessment of GM plants, GM animals and GM microbes. We have also developed national risk assessment guidance for GM plants and microbes (in Finnish). However, this guidance needs updating. Moreover, guidance is given in several ministerial decrees on risk assessment of GM plants and microbes (for deliberate release into the environment), and on risk assessment of GM plants, microbes and animals (for contained use).