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National Biotechnology Authority

20 February 2019

The Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
CANADA

ATTENTION: Dr. Cristiana Pașca Palmer

REF: CBD Notification 2019-009 - Risk Assessment and Risk Management under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: submission of information and call for expression of interest

The above matter refers, please find below responses from the Government of Zimbabwe:

Accordingly, Parties and observers may wish to submit information related to:

a) **Experience in undertaking risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives and living modified fish (detailing how and for which cases); or else, lack of experience in doing so;**

The National Biotechnology Authority (NBA), is the National Competent Authority for all biotechnology and biosafety issues in Zimbabwe. To date the NBA has no experience in undertaking the risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives and living modified fish. In addition, we have not received any application of this nature.

b) **Challenges experienced or foreseen in undertaking risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives and living modified fish;**

It is difficult to predict the behaviour of LMO organisms such as mosquitoes and fish once released into the environment. If any unintended events happen as a result of

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the genetic modification it will be very difficult to remove the organisms from the environment. The implications on the natural relatives of the introduced LMOs are unpredictable and difficult to control.

c) Specific needs (if any) to properly undertake risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives.

We require

- training on how to conduct the risk assessment.
- laboratory infrastructure and reagents for detecting modified organisms.
- equipment for controlled experiments on the possible effect of introducing the LMOs containing engineered gene drives (contained experimental chambers).

Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you require any clarification.

Yours sincerely,

NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY AUTHORITY OF ZIMBABWE
20 FEB 2019
P.O. BOX CY 379
CAUSEWAY, HARARE

Dr. D. Savadye
Acting Chief Executive Officer, National Biotechnology Authority

Board: Prof F Mtambanengwe (Board Chair), Mr E. K Moyo (Vice Board Chair), Dr. D. Savadye (Acting Board Secretary), Mrs R. Karimanzira, Prof M. Masocha, Dr F. Chatiza, Mr. Z Dhlamini, Ms G.N Mahlangu