



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON  
SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY  
Montreal, Canada, 21-25 September 2015

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
  - 2.1. Election of officers;
  - 2.2. Adoption of the agenda;
  - 2.3. Organization of work.
3. Substantive issues:
  - 3.1. Relationship between synthetic biology and biological diversity;
  - 3.2. Similarities and differences between living modified organisms (as defined in the Cartagena Protocol) and organisms, components and products of synthetic biology techniques;
  - 3.3. Adequacy of existing national, regional and/or international instruments to regulate the organisms, components or products derived from synthetic biology techniques;
  - 3.4. Towards an operational definition of synthetic biology comprising inclusion and exclusion criteria;
  - 3.5. Potential benefits and risks of organisms, components and products arising from synthetic biology techniques to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and related human health and socioeconomic impacts relevant to the mandate of the Convention and its Protocols;
  - 3.6. Best practices on risk assessment and monitoring regimes currently used by Parties to the Convention and other Governments;
  - 3.7. Degree to which the existing arrangements constitute a comprehensive framework in order to address impacts of organisms, components and products resulting from synthetic biology, in particular threats of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity.

4. Conclusions and ways forward, including elements to facilitate future discussions and actions on synthetic biology under the Convention.
  5. Other matters.
  6. Adoption of the report.
  7. Closure of the meeting.
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