



ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

Convention on Biological Diversity
413 St-Jacques Street West, Suite 800,
Montreal, Quebec H2Y 1N9

Your ref

Our ref

Date

19/425-8

31 May 2019

New and emerging issues under the Convention on Biological Diversity - Submission from Norway

In Notification 2019-041, Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and other stakeholders were invited to submit proposals for new and emerging issues for the future work programmes of the Convention.

Norway is of the opinion that synthetic biology should be classified as a new and emerging issue for the future work programmes under the Convention.

In Decision 14/19 in Sharm El-Sheikh, the Conference of the Parties recognized that synthetic biology is a rapidly developing field and a cross-cutting issue with potential benefits and potential adverse effects vis-a-vis the three objectives of the Convention. Hence, COP14 agreed that synthetic biology needs a broad and regular horizon scanning and monitoring and assessing of the most recent technological developments. Accordingly, a number of decisions and recommendations were made, among them to extend the AHTEG, the open-ended online forum, to convene moderated discussions and to update the Technical Series on Synthetic biology.

Clearly, synthetic biology already has a momentum within the CBD and it has been on the agenda for several consecutive COPs. At present the technological developments within synthetic biology advance at an accelerated rate and the potential impacts on the three objectives of the Convention cannot be underestimated. Synthetic biology must be addressed properly by the Convention and its Protocols. For the time being, given its cross-cutting nature, possible impacts and depth of intervention, Norway finds it appropriate that synthetic biology is classified as a new and emerging issue under the Convention.

Postal address
Postboks 8013 Dep
0030 Oslo
postmottak@kld.dep.no

Office address
Kongens gate 20
www.kld.dep.no

Telephone
+47 22 24 90 90
Org. nr.
972 417 882

Department
Department for Nature
Management

Reference
Gaute Voigt-
Hanssen
+47 22 24 58 94

Yours sincerely

Torstein Lindstad
Director

Gaute Voigt-Hanssen
Senior Adviser

This document is signed electronically and has therefore no handwritten signature