

February 2, 2017

Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
413 St. Jacques Street West, Suite 800
Montreal, Quebec
H2Y 1N9, Canada

North Carolina State University and its Genetic Engineering & Society Center (GES) have been recognized as one of the leading authorities on synthetic biology issues. The GES Center is a part of the Chancellor's Faculty Excellence Cluster Program and is supported by the Provost, Vice Chancellor for Research, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and College of Natural Resources. The GES Center is a unique example of engaged scholarship that serves as a regional, national and international hub of interdisciplinary research, analysis, and inclusive dialogue surrounding opportunities and challenges associated with genetic engineering and society. It is unique in the world in its blending of approaches from the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. The GES Center provides mechanisms for discussion and rigorous, trustworthy analyses about how products of genetic engineering and synthetic biology may impact society and the environment.

Prior to joining NC State, Dr. Todd Kuiken ran the Synthetic Biology Project at the Woodrow Wilson Center where he was also a member of the Synthetic Biology AHTEG. His data, reports and expertise were requested by the Conference of the Parties on the Convention on Biological Diversity and incorporated into decision XI/11. I would like to nominate Dr. Todd Kuiken, Senior Research Scholar with the GES Center, to the Open-ended Online Forum on Synthetic Biology. Dr. Kuiken's contact details are:

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Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,



Fred Gould
Co-Director, GES Center,
University Distinguished Professor
Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology