

## **Cornell Alliance for Science statement on synthetic biology**

Mr. Chair:

Cornell University's Alliance for Science believes in the promise of scientific innovations.

As a public communications initiative we have first-hand experience with existing cross-sectorial efforts to improve our environmental stewardship and ensure food security through the use of technology.

Synthetic biology is a clear example of how innovative technology can considerably improve human life through agricultural and health applications, as well as increase our ability to protect biological diversity.

This technology falls within the spirit of Article 16 of the CBD. Synthetic biology is the achievement of many years of study and progress in the fields of chemistry, biology, computer science, and engineering. It is an advancement built upon successful LMO research.

As such, living products made using synthetic biology are within the scope of existing LMO risk assessment and management frameworks in line with the Cartagena Protocol and without presenting special challenges.

We believe they should be regulated accordingly, on a case-by-case basis through the biosafety systems currently in place so that innovation may be allowed to safely move forward.

Thank you.