

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS TO THE 15 JANUARY 2010 VERSION OF THE DRAFT ROADMAP FOR RISK ASSESSMENT

This current version of the Roadmap is the result of the work of the AHTEG Sub-working Group (SWG) established for this purpose. This version is the result of several earlier versions with inputs from on-line discussion forum in November-December 2009, and subsequent comments from the members of the SWG. This SWG Chairman's text and will be further discussed in the real-time regional on-line conferences in February 2010. The final product of the Roadmap will be based on further discussions in the SWG after the real-time conferences and comments during the second session of the AHTEG in April 2010. This final product of these consultations will be submitted to COPMOP/5, as part of the report of the AHTEG.

Links to web pages in the BCH: In developing the Roadmap, it is intended that it will provide references to documents that give more extensive and detail guidance and supporting material on the issues addressed by the Roadmap. Many of such documents are already available in the Biosafety Information Resource Center (BIRC) of the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH). These references will be provided by links to web pages in the BCH. These links will enable access to the actual guidance documents and supporting materials in the BIRC. In this way, the links can enable updating of the BIRC documents without changing the text of the Roadmap. In the present version of the Roadmap, points for the links have been indicated without the actual links being operational yet. Other points in the Roadmap that may require links to document in the BCH may be inserted as and when needed.

Roadmap to COPMOP: A report of the activities and results of the AHTEG will be presented the COPMOP. The report will provide, among other things, backgrounds, overview, process of developing the Roadmap and the Roadmap itself.