

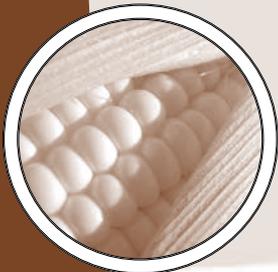
Biosafety

BUILDING A STRONG AND VIBRANT
BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL



*Decisions of the Seventh Meeting of the
Conference of the Parties to the Convention
on Biological Diversity serving as the
meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena
Protocol on Biosafety*

*Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea,
29 September to 3 October 2014*





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**DECISIONS OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF
THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY**

Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 29 September - 3 October 2014

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FOREWORD

Building a strong and vibrant Biosafety Protocol

The seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 7) in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 29 September - 3 October 2014, set a platform for the re-commitment of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol to advance the implementation and the mainstreaming of the objectives of the Cartagena Protocol into the biodiversity and sustainable development agenda. Parties agreed at the meeting to conduct an assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol in conjunction with the evaluation of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol. At the seventh meeting, a special session was convened on implementation of the Cartagena Protocol to review and share experiences on integration of biosafety into relevant national development plans, and other relevant national policies.

Among the significant outcomes of the seventh meeting, were the commencement of the process for the third assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol in combination with the mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan, drawing on information from the third national reports as a primary source, which is scheduled to be concluded at COP-MOP 8. The review process also involves gathering of information from the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH), with additional data collected through surveys. Contribution and inputs from both the Liaison Group on Capacity-building and the Compliance Committee respectively are to augment the process. The recently established Subsidiary Body on Implementation under the Convention was tasked to review the information gathered and undertake the third assessment and review in combination with the mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan for Biosafety and present its recommendations to the COP-MOP.

With regards to information sharing among Parties, COP-MOP urged Parties and invited other governments to register in the BCH all their final decisions on the first intentional transboundary movement of LMOs, with special emphasis on LMOs intended for field trials. COP-MOP further invited the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in its implementation of the BCH III project, to develop further guidance on the use of the BCH with special attention to customs and border control officials, promotion of public awareness, education and participation and to start assessing further needs of developing country Parties relating to the use of the BCH, with the aim of promptly submitting to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) proposals for new information sharing capacity-building projects.

The COP-MOP also urged eligible Parties to prioritize biosafety projects during the programming of their sixth replenishment of GEF-6 national allocations under the System of Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR), taking into account their obligations under the Cartagena Protocol and the Strategic Plan. The meeting also encouraged Parties to explore the possibility of incorporating biosafety activities into multi-focal-area projects, including the proposed “integrated approach pilots”, as well as projects to be developed under the other biodiversity focal area programmes.

The COP-MOP also urged Parties and invited other Governments to integrate and prioritize biosafety within their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national development plans and programmes. The Secretariat was requested to mobilize additional financial resources, among other things, to mainstream biosafety into the national development plans, establish strong outreach programmes and identify “biosafety champions” to promote awareness and greater understanding of biotechnology and its regulation among the public and parliamentarians.

Concerning the issue of handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs, Parties decided that a further review of the need for a stand-alone document is not required unless a subsequent meeting of the Parties so decides in light of the experience gained. They called for further implementation measures regarding the identification requirements of LMOs for food, feed and processing (FFPs).

In the deliberations on the issue of risk assessment and risk management, the COP-MOP welcomed the results of the testing of the Guidance on Risk Assessment of LMOs and invited Parties, other governments and relevant organizations to further test or use the Guidance, as appropriate, in actual cases of risk assessment and as a tool for capacity-building activities in risk assessment with the aim of enabling the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on risk assessment regarding LMOs to improve the Guidance by COP-MOP 8. The COP-MOP also welcomed the package that aligns the Guidance and the Training Manual and invited Parties to test or use it, as appropriate, while requesting the Secretariat to use it, subject to the availability of funds, to conduct capacity-building activities in risk assessment. Finally, the COP-MOP also recommended a coordinated approach with the COP on the issue of synthetic biology.

On socio-economic considerations regarding LMOs, Parties agreed to advance these discussions. The COP-MOP extended the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Socio-economic Considerations to further develop conceptual clarity on socio-economic considerations arising from the impact of LMOs on biological diversity.

Building on the developments since the adoption of the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol in Nagoya in 2010, the COP-MOP welcomed Parties that had deposited their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Supplementary Protocol and called upon other Parties to expedite their internal processes and to (deposit their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession).

COP-MOP recognized the intended role of the information in the draft third national reporting format, with regards to the issue of monitoring and reporting, to facilitate the conduct of both the mid-term review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the third assessment and review of the Cartagena Protocol.

Regarding unintentional transboundary movements, the COP-MOP requested online discussions through the Network of Laboratories in cooperation with relevant organizations and invited Parties and other governments to submit information on actual cases of unintentional transboundary movement and case studies related to their

existing mechanisms for emergency measures as well as views on what constitutes unintentional transboundary movements in contrast with illegal transboundary movements.

With the strong commitments by Parties to succeed in effectively implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, I am certain that all stakeholders will see a strong and vibrant operational instrument in the coming years.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

BS-VII/1. COMPLIANCE

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Welcoming the activities undertaken by the Compliance Committee in the last biennium, as contained in the reports on its tenth and eleventh meetings,¹ in line with its supportive role in the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Taking note of the recommendations of the Compliance Committee contained in the annex to its report,¹

1. *Encourages* Parties, when submitting to the Biosafety Clearing-House information required under the Protocol, to upload the actual documents that contain the information or, in cases where they provide a link to a website to access a document, ensure that the link is functional and up-to-date and the information is easily accessible;

2. *Also encourages* Parties to ensure that the information they make available to the Biosafety Clearing-House is up to date and consistent with their national reports;

3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant international and regional organizations to undertake or support capacity-building initiatives aimed at assisting developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, in the use of the Biosafety Clearing-House and in putting in place facilities that will enable them to submit consistent, up-to-date and complete information through the Biosafety Clearing-House and their national reports and allow developing country Parties access to appropriate technologies for active participation in online activities;

4. *Encourages* Parties that are facing difficulties complying with one or more of their obligations under the Protocol to seek assistance from the Compliance Committee or the Secretariat in such areas as making information available to the Biosafety Clearing-House and the development or updating of national biosafety frameworks;

5. *Encourages* Parties to implement requirements under Article 23 of the Protocol within a mechanism appropriate to their national circumstances, which could include the integration of public awareness, education and participation in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, broader national frameworks for communication, education and public awareness (CEPA), or efforts to implement Aichi Biodiversity Target 1, taking into account relevant elements of the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation adopted in decision BS-V/13;

¹ UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/7/2.

6. *Encourages* Parties to make effective use of the various tools, materials and mechanisms made available by the Secretariat and other sources, including the online forum and the online regional networks established through the Biosafety Clearing-House, to share information, experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of obligations under Article 23 of the Protocol.

BS-VII/2. OPERATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Considering the general operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House, the ongoing implementation of its programme of work and the progress report on the implementation of the objectives of the Strategic Plan,²

Welcoming the improvements made to the central portal of the Biosafety Clearing-House,

Commending both the United Nations Environment Programme-Global Environment Facility BCH II project and the Secretariat for the support provided to Parties on their use of the Biosafety Clearing-House during the intersessional period,

Reiterating the need for capacity building in the use of the Biosafety Clearing-House,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To facilitate communication for the editing and updating of records submitted by Parties to the Biosafety Clearing-House;

(b) To continue developing the Biosafety Clearing-House, taking due account of the needs of its users and with special emphasis on activities relating to the harmonization of and capacity-building for monitoring of living modified organisms, for example through the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms;

(c) To continue its collaboration with other biosafety databases and platforms, including those of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, other clearing-houses of the Convention and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development;

(d) To improve the Biosafety Clearing-House search interfaces in a way that allows the grouping of results by thematic areas;

(e) To complete the translation of all decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties in all six official languages of the United Nations;

(f) To continue the development of online forums given their effectiveness in capacity-building in the implementation of the Biosafety Clearing-House;

² UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/7/3, Sect. II.

2. *Urges* Parties and *invites* other Governments:

(a) To inform their representatives in other international forums of the possibility of retrieving electronically all data registered in the Biosafety Clearing-House in order to make them available through other related websites;

(b) To register in the Biosafety Clearing-House all their final decisions on the first intentional transboundary movement of living modified organisms for intentional introduction into the environment of the Party of import and related risk assessments as requested under the Protocol, with special emphasis on the first intentional transboundary movement of living modified organisms intended for field trials, since this category is currently underrepresented in the Biosafety Clearing-House, while recalling paragraph 1(a) of decision BS-V/2;

3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant international and regional organizations:

(a) To undertake or support capacity-building initiatives to assist developing country Parties in putting in place facilities enabling them to submit consistent, up-to-date and complete information through the Biosafety Clearing-House and their national reports;

(b) To provide funding and to strengthen and expand initiatives, as much as possible in a coordinated way, aimed at overcoming obstacles encountered by developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, in meeting their obligations under Article 20 of the Protocol, including capacity-building, training and the development of infrastructure necessary for facilitating the retrieval and submission of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House, while recalling paragraph 10 of decision BS-V/2;

4. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme, in its implementation of the BCH III project:

(a) To develop further guidance on the use of the Biosafety Clearing-House with special attention to (i) customs and border control officials and (ii) promotion of public awareness, education and participation;

(b) To promote, to the extent possible, regional synergies with Parties that have participated in the BCH II project;

5. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme and other Global Environment Facility implementing agencies to start assessing further needs of developing country Parties relating to the use of the Biosafety Clearing-House, taking into account the needs of the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, with the aim of promptly submitting to the Global Environment Facility proposals for new capacity-building projects, or project components, tailored

to address national and regional needs in the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

6. *Invites* Parties, in consultation with the United Nations Environment Programme and other Global Environment Facility implementing agencies, to assess lessons learned from using the advisory system to build capacity in the effective participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House and the possibilities for using such a system to build the capacity for effective participation in other clearing-houses of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

BS-VII/3.
ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS
OF THE PROTOCOL (ARTICLE 35)

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

1. *Decides that:*

(a) The third assessment and review of effectiveness of the Protocol be combined with the mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol;

(b) The evaluation should also draw upon available information from the third national reports as a primary source, the Biosafety Clearing-House and where appropriate, additional data may be collected through dedicated surveys;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to collect, compile and analyse information on the implementation of the Protocol using the third national reports as a primary source, with a view to contributing to the third assessment and review of the Protocol in conjunction with the mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020;

3. *Urges* Parties and invites other Governments to contribute effectively to the data collection process by completing and submitting their national reports in a timely manner and by providing adequate and complete information in their reports, in accordance with the relevant decisions on national reporting, especially with regard to timeframes for the submission of such reports;

4. *Urges* Parties and other Governments to make available all mandatory information in the Biosafety Clearing-House;

5. *Requests* the relevant subsidiary body entrusted with the task of reviewing the implementation of the Protocol, including contributions from the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building:

(a) To review the information gathered and analysed by the Executive Secretary with a view to contributing to the third assessment and review of the Protocol and the mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020;

(b) To undertake the third assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol using a core set of identified information needs in the annex to this decision as may be adjusted by the group;

(c) To take into account the views of representatives of indigenous and local communities by ensuring their participation in the review process;

6. To submit its findings and recommendations to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for its consideration at its eighth meeting;

7. *Requests* the Compliance Committee to provide input into the third assessment and review of the Protocol and the mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan in the form of an evaluation of the status of implementation of the Protocol in meeting its objectives;

Annex

POSSIBLE ELEMENTS AND CORRESPONDING CORE SET OF IDENTIFIED INFORMATION NEEDS FOR THE THIRD ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MIDTERM EVALUATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

A. Coverage

Element 1. Geographic coverage of the Protocol and Protocol's coverage of transboundary movements of LMOs:

- (a) Number of Parties to the Protocol;
- (b) Number of Parties that have designated national focal points;
- (c) Number of Parties submitting timely national reports on their implementation of the Protocol;
- (d) Number of Parties importing LMOs from non-Parties;
- (e) Number of Parties exporting LMOs to non-Parties;
- (f) Number of Parties that are developing LMOs in public and research centres.

B. Domestic implementation of core procedures and annexes

Element 2. AIA procedures (or domestic regulatory frameworks consistent with the Protocol), in accordance with the Protocol, are established for the transboundary movement of LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment:

- (a) Number of Parties that have put in place laws and regulations and/or administrative measures for operation of the AIA procedure;
- (b) Number of Parties that have adopted a domestic regulatory framework consistent with the Protocol as regards the transboundary movement of LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment;

(c) Number of Parties that have designated competent national authorities;

(d) Number of Parties importing or exporting LMOs that do not have relevant laws and regulations in place governing transboundary movements of LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment;

(e) Regional trends in adopting AIA procedures or domestic regulatory frameworks consistent with the Protocol.

Element 3. AIA procedures (or domestic regulatory framework consistent with the Protocol) for the transboundary movement of LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment are operational and functioning:

(a) Number of Parties with domestic institutional and administrative (decision-making) arrangements in place to deal with AIA applications;

(b) Number of Parties with a budgetary allocation for the operation of their national biosafety framework;

(c) Number of Parties with permanent staff in place to administer their national biosafety frameworks (including AIA applications);

(d) Number of Parties that have processed AIA applications and reached decisions on import;

(e) Regional trends in operation and functioning of AIA procedures.

Element 4. Procedures for decision-making in relation to transboundary movements of living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (LMO-FFPs) are established and operational:

(a) Number of Parties that have taken final decisions regarding domestic use, including placing on the market, of LMO-FFPs that may be subject to transboundary movement;

(b) Number of Parties with a decision-making procedure specific to the import of LMO FFPs.

Element 5. Risk assessment procedures for LMOs are established and operational:

(a) Number of Parties with risk assessment guidance in place for LMOs;

(b) Number of Parties that have conducted risk assessments as part of a decision-making process regarding an LMO;

(c) Number of Parties with an advisory committee or other arrangements in place for conducting or reviewing risk assessment;

(d) Number of decisions in the Biosafety Clearing-House accompanied by a summary of the risk assessment of the LMO;

(e) Number of Parties with the necessary domestic capacity to conduct risk assessment;

(f) Number of Parties reporting having used Annex III of the Protocol or any other guidance on risk assessment agreed to by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;

(g) Regional trends in relation to risk assessment capacity.

Element 6. Procedures for the establishment of appropriate LMO risk management measures and monitoring are established and operational:

(a) Number of Parties that have authorized introductions of LMOs into the environment and that have requirements and/or procedures in place and enforced to regulate, manage and control risks identified in risk assessments;

(b) Number of Parties with capacity to detect and identify the presence of LMOs;

(c) Regional trends in relation to risk management capacity.

Element 7. Procedures for identifying and addressing illegal transboundary movements of LMOs are in place and operational:

(a) Number of Parties with domestic measures to prevent and penalize illegal transboundary movements, including through the regulation of transit and contained use;

(b) Number of Parties reporting having received information concerning cases of illegal transboundary movements of an LMO to or from territories under its jurisdiction;

(c) Number of Parties with capacity to detect illegal transboundary movements of LMOs (e.g. personnel, technical capacity).

Element 8. Procedures for preventing, identifying and addressing unintentional transboundary movements of LMOs are established and operational, including notification procedures and emergency measures:

(a) Number of Parties having notified to the Biosafety Clearing-House their contact points regarding unintentional transboundary movement of LMOs in accordance with Article 17;

(b) Number of Parties with a mechanism in place for notifying potentially affected States of actual or potential unintentional transboundary movements of LMOs;

(c) Number of instances of unintentional transboundary movements identified;

(d) Number of Parties with a mechanism to identify and determine significant adverse effects on biological diversity of any unintentional transboundary movements of LMOs.

Element 9. Appropriate requirements are established and implemented in relation to the Protocol's requirements on the handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs:

Number of Parties with requirements for handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs in place consistent with Article 18 of the Protocol and relevant subsequent decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol for:

(i) Contained use;

(ii) Intentional introduction into the environment;

(iii) LMO-FFPs.

Element 10. Procedures for notification of required information to the Biosafety Clearing-House are established and operational:

(a) Number of Parties that have allocated responsibilities for notification of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House;

(b) Number of Parties that have in place systems for the management of biosafety information necessary for the implementation of the Protocol.

Element 11. Programme of work on public awareness, education and participation being implemented:

(a) Number of Parties implementing public-awareness programmes or activities;

(b) Number of Parties providing for some level of public participation in decision-making processes on LMOs.

C. International level procedures and mechanisms

Element 12. Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol serves its purpose as a governing body:

(a) Number of decisions taken by the COP-MOP which facilitate the implementation of obligations under the Protocol by elaborating specific measures;

(b) Contribution of ad hoc technical expert groups to policy development and implementation (number of guidelines and other instruments adopted by the COP-MOP on the basis of contribution by expert groups);

(c) Number of relevant international organizations that have contributed services and information to the Protocol process.

Element 13. Framework and Action Plan for Capacity-Building being effectively implemented:

(a) Amount of funding provided or received for supporting biosafety capacity-building activities and the impacts resulting from such funding;

(b) Number of Parties seeking assistance to be able to use experts from the roster of experts and number of Parties actually receiving such assistance;

(c) Number of Parties reporting using local expertise to undertake or review risk assessments and other activities relating to the implementation of the Protocol.

Element 14. Compliance Committee is functioning:

(a) Parties raise issues with the Compliance Committee concerning their own compliance with Protocol obligations;

(b) Compliance Committee has decision-making rules of procedure in place.

Element 15. The Biosafety Clearing-House is operational and accessible:

(a) Number of Parties and other users accessing the Biosafety Clearing-House on a regular basis, i.e. at least once a month;

(b) Number of Parties reporting difficulties accessing or using the Biosafety Clearing-House;

(c) Extent to which information on the Biosafety Clearing-House is reliable and up to date.

D. Impacts of transboundary movements of LMOs on biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health

Element 16. Consideration should be given to the work on Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity:

Number of Parties that have integrated biosafety into their national biodiversity strategy and action plans.

BS-VII/4. CONTAINED USE OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol

1. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to submit to the Executive Secretary information, tools, practical experience and guidance related to their existing mechanisms and requirements relating to the contained use of living modified organisms, including any specific requirement relating to the type and level of containment;
2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to create sections in the Biosafety Clearing-House where such information could be submitted and easily retrieved;
3. *Decides* to consider, at its eighth meeting, taking into account the information provided through paragraph 1 above, the gaps and needs identified by Parties, if any, with a view to facilitating the implementation of the Protocol's provisions on contained use of living modified organisms.

BS-VII/5. MATTERS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM AND RESOURCES

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recalling its decision BS-VI/5,

Noting the report submitted by the Council of the Global Environment Facility to Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting,³

Noting also decision XI/4 of the Conference of the Parties and recommendation 5/10 of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention regarding the review of implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention, including the establishment of targets,

I. Global Environment Facility support for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

1. *Notes with concern* the low number of projects and the total amount of funding requested by Parties from the Global Environment Facility to support implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety during the fifth replenishment (GEF-5) period;

2. *Welcomes* the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and *expresses its appreciation* to the countries that contributed to the sixth replenishment;

3. *Also welcomes* the GEF-6 Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy,⁴ which includes Programme 5 on Implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and *takes note* of the indicative programming targets for the various Biodiversity Focal Area objectives and programmes;

4. *Urges* eligible Parties to prioritize biosafety projects during the programming of their GEF-6 national allocations under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR), taking into account their obligations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020, and the guidance of the Conference of the Parties to the financial mechanism;

5. *Encourages* Parties to explore the possibility of incorporating biosafety activities into multi-focal-area projects, including the proposed “integrated approach

³ UNEP/CBD/COP/12/14/Add.1.

⁴ GEF/C.46/07/Rev.01.

pilots”, as well as projects to be developed under the other biodiversity focal area programmes;

6. *Also encourages* Parties to cooperate at the regional and subregional levels and to request support from the Global Environment Facility for joint projects in order to maximize synergies and opportunities for cost-effective sharing of resources, information, experiences and expertise;

7. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to engage in activities to raise awareness of relevant government officials (including GEF operational focal points) regarding the importance of biosafety and the national obligations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety with a view to ensuring due consideration of biosafety in the programming of the national GEF allocations for biodiversity;

8. *Urges* Parties to improve their efforts to access funding for biosafety projects from the Global Environment Facility, inter alia, through better coordination between Cartagena Protocol national focal points, CBD national focal points, and GEF operational focal points;

9. *Also urges* Parties to cooperate in organizing regional workshops with a view to raising awareness of the Cartagena Protocol as a tool for sustainable development and the importance of fulfilling obligations under the Protocol; identifying available local or regional capacities that may be utilized; and designing projects that have a better chance of being approved;

10. *Further urges* Parties and *invites* other Governments to integrate and prioritize biosafety within their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national development plans and programmes, as appropriate;

11. *Encourages* the agencies of the Global Environment Facility to make sufficient provisions to support eligible Parties in developing and implementing biosafety projects;

12. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to communicate with the Global Environment Facility operational focal points concerning the need to consider programming part of the national GEF allocation to support national implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which is a binding international agreement under the Convention on Biological Diversity, taking into account paragraph 1 of decision BS-VI/5 and the fact that the Global Environment Facility is the financial mechanism for the Protocol;

13. *Invites* the Global Environment Facilities Agencies and other relevant organizations, to organize regional and subregional workshops for the Cartagena Protocol and the Convention national focal points, the Global Environment Facility operational focal points and relevant stakeholders to strengthen their capacities and foster sharing of experiences and lessons learned regarding GEF funding for biosafety projects;

II. Further guidance to the financial mechanism

14. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties, in adopting its further guidance to the financial mechanism with respect to support for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, invite the Global Environment Facility:

(a) To fund, in view of the experience gained during the second national reporting process, the following activities within the Biodiversity Focal Area Set Aside for eligible Parties, in particular those that have reported to the Compliance Committee difficulties in complying with the Protocol, with a view to fulfilling their national reporting obligation under the Protocol:

- (i) Preparation of the third national reports under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, in accordance with paragraph 2 (g) of decision BS-VI/5;
- (ii) Preparation, by Parties that have not yet done so, of their first national reports under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, in accordance with decision BS-V/14;

(b) To fund the following activities of eligible Parties within Programme 5 on Implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety under the Biodiversity Focal Area:

- (i) Implementation of national biosafety frameworks, in accordance with paragraph 2 (h) of decision BS-VI/5;
- (ii) Supporting capacity-building activities in the thematic work related to the Strategic Plan, taking into account the capacity-building needs of eligible Parties;
- (iii) Supporting the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress, including, *inter alia*, capacity-building, information sharing and awareness-raising activities.

(c) To consider mechanisms for:

- (i) Supporting the updating and finalization of national biosafety frameworks;
- (ii) Facilitating access to GEF funding for projects supporting the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
- (iii) Increasing the level of utilization of GEF funding for biosafety;

and report to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting.

(d) To promptly evaluate the BCH III project, currently under development, addressing the need for capacity-building for the use of the Biosafety Clearing-House of all eligible Parties not yet supported through the implementation of the previous United Nations Environment Programme-Global Environment Facility BCH I and II projects;

(e) To support Parties in the collection of national data and conducting consultations on the third national reports;

(f) To provide funds to implement the capacity-building activities referred to in paragraph 13 of decision BS-VII/12 on risk assessment and risk management;

(g) To support capacity-building activities on socio-economic considerations as specified in paragraphs 2 (n) and (o) of decision BS-VI/5 (appendix II of decision XI/5 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity).

Mobilization of additional resources

15. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting to take into consideration resource mobilization for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in its consideration of agenda item 14 on resource mobilization;

16. *Urges* Parties that have not yet done so to expedite the enactment of their national biosafety laws to pave the way for securing dedicated funding allocations for biosafety in their national budgets;

17. *Also urges* Parties and invites other Governments to implement, as appropriate, the following strategic measures within the overall framework of the strategy for resource mobilization in support of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with a view to mobilizing additional financial resources for implementation of the Protocol:

(a) Mainstream biosafety into the national development plans, such as Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategies, to make possible to secure national budget support;

(b) Establish strong outreach programmes targeting key policymakers, parliamentarians, the general public and other stakeholders, to promote their awareness of biosafety issues and raise the profile of biosafety among other national priorities;

(c) Strengthen the capacity of the personnel dealing with biosafety to effectively engage and encourage policymakers, decision makers and officials from other sectors about the importance of biosafety and to secure their support;

(d) Identify “biosafety champions” to promote awareness and greater understanding of biotechnology and its regulation among the public and parliamentarians;

(e) Link biosafety to the issues of national concerns and priorities for each country so as to attract the attention of policymakers;

18. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of funds, to take into account biosafety concerns when providing technical support and guidance and capacity-building, including through regional and subregional workshops, in order to assist Parties to identify their funding needs and gaps in biosafety and to integrate biosafety in the development of their national resource mobilization strategies for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

BS-VII/6. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, CONVENTIONS AND INITIATIVES

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol,

Recalling its decisions BS-II/6, BS-V/6 and BS-VI/6,

Welcoming the information provided by the Executive Secretary on activities undertaken to improve cooperation with other organizations, conventions and initiatives,⁵

Also welcoming the Executive Secretary's cooperation with, inter alia, the World Trade Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Plant Protection Convention, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Access to Information Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the Aarhus Convention), the European Union Reference Laboratory for GM Food and Feed of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, and the Green Customs Initiative,

Underlining the contribution of cooperation and coordination among relevant organizations, multilateral agreements and initiatives to the effective implementation of the Protocol and the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011–2020, adopted at the fifth meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, relating, in particular, to the key areas of the Protocol, namely capacity-building, information sharing, detection and identification of living modified organisms, public awareness and participation and risk assessment,

1. *Urges* Parties to improve and strengthen collaboration at the regional and national levels among focal points of organizations, conventions and initiatives relevant to the implementation of the Biosafety Protocol, as appropriate;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of funds:

(a) To further pursue, at the current level, cooperation with other organizations, conventions and initiatives, including academic and research institutions, from all regions, with a view to meeting the strategic objective in focal area 5 of the Strategic Plan, on outreach and cooperation;

(b) To promote active participation of other conventions and related organizations in the BCH online discussion portal;

(c) To continue efforts to gain observer status for the Convention on Biological Diversity in those committees of the World Trade Organization that are relevant to biosafety.

⁵ UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/7/5.

BS-VII/7.
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON
THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROTOCOL

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

1. *Welcomes* the contribution of CAD 1,576,652, for the year 2015 and CAD 1,584,692 for the year 2016, from the host country, Canada, and the Province of Quebec to the rental of the premises of the Secretariat, of which 16.5 per cent has been allocated per annum to offset contributions from the Parties to the Protocol for the biennium 2015-2016;
2. *Approves* a core programme budget (BG) of US\$ 3,243,500 for the year 2015 and of US\$ 3,190,400 for the year 2016, for the purposes set out in table 1 below;
3. *Approves* secretariat staffing as set out in table 2 below;
4. *Adopts* the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the costs under the Protocol for 2015 and 2016 set out in table 5 below;
5. *Decides*, in the light of the recommendation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) in its report on the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to increase the working capital reserve to a level of 7.5 per cent of the core programme budget (BG) expenditure, including programme support costs, and to do so from the existing BG fund balance;
6. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to enter into commitments up to the level of the approved budget, drawing on available cash resources, including unspent balances, contributions from previous financial periods and miscellaneous income;
7. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to transfer resources among the programmes between each of the main appropriation lines set out in table 1 below up to an aggregate of 15 per cent of the total programme budget, provided that a further limitation of up to a maximum of 25 per cent of each such appropriation line shall apply;
8. *Agrees* to share the costs for secretariat services between those that are common to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Protocol on an 85:15 ratio for the biennium 2015-2016, while noting that the proportionate division between the Convention and its two Protocols will need to be reconsidered for the 2017-2018 budget following discussions on the implementation of the Functional Review of the Secretariat;
9. *Invites* all Parties to the Protocol to note that contributions to the core programme budget (BG) are due on 1 January of the year in which these contributions

have been budgeted for, and to pay them promptly, and *urges* Parties in a position to do so, to pay by 1 December of the year 2014 for the calendar year 2015 and by 1 October 2015 for the calendar year 2016, the contributions set out in table 5 and in this regard *requests* that Parties be notified of the amount of their contributions for 2016 by 1 August 2015;

10. *Notes* with concern that a number of Parties have not paid their contributions to the core budget (BG Trust Fund) for 2014 and prior years, including 14 Parties that have never paid their contributions, and *also notes* that, in accordance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards adopted by the United Nations, arrears estimated at \$92,738 will be outstanding at the end of 2014 and will have to be deducted from the fund balance to cover doubtful debt and so cannot be used for the benefit of all Parties;

11. *Urges* Parties that have still not paid their contributions to the core budget (BG Trust Fund) for 2014 and prior years; to do so without delay and requests the Executive Secretary to publish and regularly update information on the status of contributions to the Protocol's Trust Funds (currently BG, BH and BI) and on the implication of non-payment of assessed contributions for the fund balance;

12. *Confirms* that, with regard to contributions due from 1 January 2005 onwards, Parties whose contributions are in arrears for two (2) or more years will not be eligible to become a member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, and that this will only apply in the case of Parties that are not least developed countries or small island developing States;

13. *Authorizes* the Executive Secretary to enter into arrangements with any Party whose contributions are in arrears for two or more years to mutually agree on a "schedule of payments" for such a Party, to clear all outstanding arrears, within six years depending on the financial circumstances of the Party in arrears and pay future contributions by the due date, and report on the implementation of any such arrangement to the next meeting of the Bureau and to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

14. *Decides* that a Party with an agreed arrangement in accordance with paragraph 13 above and that is fully respecting the provisions of that arrangement will not be subject to the provisions of paragraph 12 above;

15. *Requests* the Executive Secretary and *invites* the President of the COP-MOP through a jointly signed letter to notify Parties whose contributions are in arrears to invite them to take timely action and thanks those Parties that have responded in a positive manner in paying their outstanding contributions;

16. *Agrees with* the funding estimates for activities under the Protocol to be financed from:

(a) The Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BH) for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities for the biennium 2015-2016, as specified by the Executive Secretary, giving special attention to capacity-building (see resource requirements in table 3 below);

(b) The Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BI) for Facilitating Participation of the Developing Country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, Parties with Economies in Transition, for the biennium 2015-2016, as specified by the Executive Secretary (see resource requirements in table 4 below);

and *urges* Parties to make contributions to these funds;

17. *Considers* that the trust funds for the Protocol (BG, BH, BI) should be extended for a period of two years, beginning 1 January 2016 and ending 31 December 2017, and requests the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to seek the approval of the United Nations Environment Assembly for their extension;

18. *Agrees*, in view of the decision to hold the ordinary meetings of the Parties of the Cartagena Protocol concurrently with the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, subject to the agreement of the Conference of the Parties and taking into account advice to be provided by the Executive Secretary and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to merge the BI special voluntary Trust Fund with the BZ Voluntary Trust Fund, which facilitates participation of Parties in the meetings related to the Convention and its Protocols and, in the event of such merger, *requests* the Executive Secretary to ensure transparency when reporting expenditure for the Protocol and the Convention under the merged Trust Fund;

19. *Invites* all States not Parties to the Protocol, as well as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other sources, to contribute to the trust funds for the Protocol (BH, BI) to enable the Secretariat to implement approved activities in a timely manner;

20. *Notes* with concern the low level of contributions to the BI Trust Fund, which facilitates participation in the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol;

21. *Reaffirms* the importance of full and effective participation of the developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as Parties with economies in transition, in the activities of the Protocol and, requests the Secretariat to remind Parties of the need to contribute to the Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BI) at least six months prior to the ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and *urges* Parties in the position to do so to ensure that the contributions are paid at least three months before the meeting;

22. *Stresses* the importance of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention and the meetings of the Parties of its Protocols on improving the efficiency of structures and processes under the Convention and its Protocols and on the outcome of the Functional Review of the Secretariat and their implications for the future budgets of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

23. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to provide information on savings resulting from the integration of the work of the Secretariat of the Convention and its Protocols;

24. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare and submit a programme budget for secretariat services and the biosafety work programme of the Protocol for the biennium 2017-2018 to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, and to provide two alternatives for the budget based on:

(a) The Executive Secretary's assessment of the required rate of growth for the programme budget which should not exceed a 5 per cent increase from the 2015-2016 level in nominal terms;

(b) Maintaining the core programme budget (BG Trust Fund) at the 2015-2016 level in nominal terms as in table 1;

25. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to report on income and budget performance, unspent balances and the status of surplus and carry-overs as well as any adjustments made to the Protocol budget for the biennium 2015-2016 and to provide to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol and biosafety focal points all financial information regarding the budget for the Convention on Biological Diversity at the same time as it is provided to Parties to the Convention;

Table 1. Biosafety Protocol resource requirements from the core budget (BG Trust Fund) for the biennium 2015-2016

<i>Expenditures</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
	<i>(Thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
A. Staff costs*	1,971.4	2,008.8	3,980.2
B. Biosafety Bureau meetings	20.0	25.0	45.0
C. Eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol	100.0	300.0	400.0
D. Consultants/subcontracts	30.0	30.0	60.0
E. Travel on official business	50.0	50.0	100.0
F. Meetings of the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building	30.0	30.0	60.0
G. Biosafety Clearing-House Informal Advisory meetings	55.0	-	55.0
H. Compliance Committee meeting	45.0	45.0	90.0
I. Biosafety Clearing House Expert meeting	80.0	-	80.0
J. General operating expenses	283.6	284.6	568.2
K. Temporary assistance/Overtime	10.0	10.0	20.0
L. Translation of BCH website	35.0	35.0	70.0
M. Biosafety Clearing House equipment	5.0	5.0	10.0
Subtotal (I)	2,715.0	2,823.4	5,538.4
II Programme support charge (13 per cent)	353.0	367.0	720.0
III Working capital reserve (7.5 per cent)	175.5		175.5
GRAND TOTAL (I+II+III)	3,243.5	3,190.4	6,433.9
Replenishment of working capital reserve from savings	(175.5)		(175.5)
Less contribution from host country**	(237.9)	(239.1)	(477.0)
TOTAL	2,830.1	2,951.3	5,781.4
Less savings from previous years	(200.0)	(200.0)	(400.0)
NET TOTAL (amount to be shared by Parties)	2,630.1	2,751.3	5,381.4

* Includes 15 per cent of costs for 1 P-5, 1 P-4; 3 P-3 and 2 G-S staff funded mainly by the Convention.

* Includes 50 per cent of costs for 1 P-4 staff funded by the Convention.

** Host country contribution paid in Canadian dollars to cover rental costs.

**Table 2. Biosafety Protocol staffing requirements from the core budget
(BG Trust Fund) for the biennium 2015-2016**

	2015	2016
I. Professional category		
D-1	1	1
P-4	2.5	2.5
P-3	3	3
P-2	2	2
Total professional category	8.5	8.5
II. Total General Service category	4	4
<i>TOTAL (A+B)</i>	12.5	12.5

Table 3. Resource requirements from the Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BH) for Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities of the Cartagena Protocol for the biennium 2015-2016

(Thousands of United States dollars)

I. Description*	Amount
<i>Meetings/Workshops</i>	
Agenda item 10: Identification (4-Regional workshops)	320,000
Agenda item 11: Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Protocol (4-regional workshops)	320,000
Agenda item 12: Risk assessment and risk management expert meeting	100,000
Agenda item 13: Socio-economic considerations expert meeting	100,000
Agenda item 15: Assessment and review Liaison Group	30,000
Agenda item 16: Article 17(unintentional) – Regional workshop	320,000
On-going Strategic Plan activities	160,000
<i>Consultants</i>	
Agenda item 9: Roster of biosafety experts (ongoing)	200,000
<i>Travel of Staff</i>	
Agenda item 7: Cooperation with other organizations, conventions and initiatives	10,000
Agenda item 13: Socio-economic considerations	30,000
<i>Publications/Printing costs</i>	
Agenda item 16: Article 17(unintentional)	60,000
Ongoing Strategic Plan activities	150,000
<i>Activities</i>	
Agenda item 14: Risk assessment and risk management (translation)	80,000
Subtotal I	1,880,000
II. Programme support costs (13 per cent)	244,400
Total costs (I+II)	2,124,400

* COP-MOP/7 Agenda items

Table 4. Resource requirements from the Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BI) for Facilitating Participation in the Protocol for the Biennium 2015-2016

Description	2015	2016
<i>(Thousands of United States dollars)</i>		
<i>I Meetings</i>		
Meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol		600.0
Subtotal		600.0
<i>II Programme support cost (13 per cent)</i>		78.0
III Total cost (I+II)		678.0

Table 5. Contributions to the Trust Fund for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the biennium 2015-2016

<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessments 2015 (percentage)</i>	<i>Scale with 22% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01 % (percentage)</i>	<i>Contributions as per 1 Jan. 2015 (US\$)</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessments 2015 (percentage)</i>	<i>Scale with 22% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01 % (percentage)</i>	<i>Contributions as per 1 Jan. 2016 (US\$)</i>	<i>Total contributions 2015-2016 (US\$)</i>
Afghanistan	0.005	0.007	187	0.005	0.007	196	383
Albania	0.010	0.014	374	0.010	0.014	391	766
Algeria	0.137	0.195	5,127	0.137	0.195	5,363	10,490
Angola	0.010	0.010	263	0.010	0.010	275	538
Antigua and Barbuda	0.002	0.003	75	0.002	0.003	78	153
Armenia	0.007	0.010	262	0.007	0.010	274	536
Austria	0.798	1.135	29,864	0.798	1.135	31,240	61,104
Azerbaijan	0.040	0.057	1,497	0.040	0.057	1,566	3,063
Bahamas	0.017	0.024	636	0.017	0.024	666	1,302
Bahrain	0.039	0.055	1,460	0.039	0.055	1,527	2,986
Bangladesh	0.010	0.010	263	0.010	0.010	275	538
Barbados	0.008	0.011	299	0.008	0.011	313	613
Belarus	0.056	0.080	2,096	0.056	0.080	2,192	4,288
Belgium	0.998	1.420	37,349	0.998	1.420	39,070	76,418
Belize	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Benin	0.003	0.004	112	0.003	0.004	117	230
Bhutan	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Bolivia	0.009	0.013	337	0.009	0.013	352	689
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.017	0.024	636	0.017	0.024	666	1,302
Botswana	0.017	0.024	636	0.017	0.024	666	1,302
Brazil	2.934	4.175	109,801	2.934	4.175	114,860	224,661
Bulgaria	0.047	0.067	1,759	0.047	0.067	1,840	3,599
Burkina Faso	0.003	0.004	112	0.003	0.004	117	230
Burundi	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Cambodia	0.004	0.006	150	0.004	0.006	157	306
Cameroon	0.012	0.017	449	0.012	0.017	470	919
Cabo Verde	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Central African Republic	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Chad	0.002	0.003	75	0.002	0.003	78	153
China	5.148	7.325	192,656	5.148	7.325	201,534	394,190
Colombia	0.259	0.369	9,693	0.259	0.369	10,139	19,832
Comoros	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Congo	0.005	0.007	187	0.005	0.007	196	383

<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessments 2015 (percentage)</i>	<i>Scale with 22% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01 % (percentage)</i>	<i>Contributions as per 1 Jan. 2015 (US\$)</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessments 2015 (percentage)</i>	<i>Scale with 22% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01 % (percentage)</i>	<i>Contributions as per 1 Jan. 2016 (US\$)</i>	<i>Total contributions 2015-2016 (US\$)</i>
Costa Rica	0.038	0.054	1,422	0.038	0.054	1,488	2,910
Croatia	0.126	0.179	4,715	0.126	0.179	4,933	9,648
Cuba	0.069	0.098	2,582	0.069	0.098	2,701	5,283
Cyprus	0.047	0.067	1,759	0.047	0.067	1,840	3,599
Czech Republic	0.386	0.549	14,445	0.386	0.549	15,111	29,557
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	0.006	0.009	225	0.006	0.009	235	459
Democratic Republic of the Congo	0.003	0.004	112	0.003	0.004	117	230
Denmark	0.675	0.960	25,261	0.675	0.960	26,425	51,686
Djibouti	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Dominica	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Dominican Republic	0.045	0.064	1,684	0.045	0.064	1,762	3,446
Ecuador	0.044	0.063	1,647	0.044	0.063	1,723	3,369
Egypt	0.134	0.191	5,015	0.134	0.191	5,246	10,261
El Salvador	0.016	0.023	599	0.016	0.023	626	1,225
Eritrea	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Estonia	0.040	0.057	1,497	0.040	0.057	1,566	3,063
Ethiopia	0.010	0.010	263	0.010	0.010	275	538
European Union		2.500	65,753		2.500	68,783	134,537
Fiji	0.003	0.004	112	0.003	0.004	117	230
Finland	0.519	0.738	19,423	0.519	0.738	20,318	39,741
France	5.593	7.958	209,310	5.593	7.958	218,955	428,265
Gabon	0.020	0.028	748	0.020	0.028	783	1,531
Gambia	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Georgia	0.007	0.010	262	0.007	0.010	274	536
Germany	7.141	10.161	267,241	7.141	10.161	279,556	546,797
Ghana	0.014	0.020	524	0.014	0.020	548	1,072
Greece	0.638	0.908	23,876	0.638	0.908	24,976	48,853
Grenada	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Guatemala	0.027	0.038	1,010	0.027	0.038	1,057	2,067
Guinea	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Guinea-Bissau	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Guyana	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Honduras	0.008	0.011	299	0.008	0.011	313	613
Hungary	0.266	0.378	9,955	0.266	0.378	10,413	20,368

<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessments 2015 (percentage)</i>	<i>Scale with 22% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01 % (percentage)</i>	<i>Contributions as per 1 Jan. 2015 (US\$)</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessments 2015 (percentage)</i>	<i>Scale with 22% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01 % (percentage)</i>	<i>Contributions as per 1 Jan. 2016 (US\$)</i>	<i>Total contributions 2015-2016 (US\$)</i>
India	0.666	0.948	24,924	0.666	0.948	26,073	50,997
Indonesia	0.346	0.492	12,949	0.346	0.492	13,545	26,494
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	0.356	0.507	13,323	0.356	0.507	13,937	27,259
Iraq	0.068	0.097	2,545	0.068	0.097	2,662	5,207
Ireland	0.418	0.595	15,643	0.418	0.595	16,364	32,007
Italy	4.448	6.329	166,460	4.448	6.329	174,130	340,590
Jamaica	0.011	0.016	412	0.011	0.016	431	842
Japan	10.833	15.414	405,409	10.833	15.414	424,090	829,499
Jordan	0.022	0.031	823	0.022	0.031	861	1,685
Kazakhstan	0.121	0.172	4,528	0.121	0.172	4,737	9,265
Kenya	0.013	0.018	487	0.013	0.018	509	995
Kiribati	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Kyrgyzstan	0.002	0.003	75	0.002	0.003	78	153
Lao People's Democratic Republic	0.002	0.003	75	0.002	0.003	78	153
Latvia	0.047	0.067	1,759	0.047	0.067	1,840	3,599
Lebanon	0.042	0.060	1,572	0.042	0.060	1,644	3,216
Lesotho	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Liberia	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Libya	0.142	0.202	5,314	0.142	0.202	5,559	10,873
Lithuania	0.073	0.104	2,732	0.073	0.104	2,858	5,590
Luxembourg	0.081	0.115	3,031	0.081	0.115	3,171	6,202
Madagascar	0.003	0.004	112	0.003	0.004	117	230
Malawi	0.002	0.003	75	0.002	0.003	78	153
Malaysia	0.281	0.400	10,516	0.281	0.400	11,001	21,517
Maldives	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Mali	0.004	0.006	150	0.004	0.006	157	306
Malta	0.016	0.023	599	0.016	0.023	626	1,225
Marshall Islands	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Mauritania	0.002	0.003	75	0.002	0.003	78	153
Mauritius	0.013	0.018	487	0.013	0.018	509	995
Mexico	1.842	2.621	68,934	1.842	2.621	72,111	141,045
Mongolia	0.003	0.004	112	0.003	0.004	117	230
Montenegro	0.005	0.007	187	0.005	0.007	196	383
Morocco	0.062	0.088	2,320	0.062	0.088	2,427	4,747
Mozambique	0.003	0.004	112	0.003	0.004	117	230

<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessments 2015 (percentage)</i>	<i>Scale with 22% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01 % (percentage)</i>	<i>Contributions as per 1 Jan. 2015 (US\$)</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessments 2015 (percentage)</i>	<i>Scale with 22% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01 % (percentage)</i>	<i>Contributions as per 1 Jan. 2016 (US\$)</i>	<i>Total contributions 2015-2016 (US\$)</i>
Myanmar	0.010	0.010	263	0.010	0.010	275	538
Namibia	0.010	0.014	374	0.010	0.014	391	766
Nauru	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Netherlands	1.654	2.353	61,899	1.654	2.353	64,751	126,649
New Zealand	0.253	0.360	9,468	0.253	0.360	9,904	19,373
Nicaragua	0.003	0.004	112	0.003	0.004	117	230
Niger	0.002	0.003	75	0.002	0.003	78	153
Nigeria	0.090	0.128	3,368	0.090	0.128	3,523	6,891
Niue	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Norway	0.851	1.211	31,847	0.851	1.211	33,315	65,162
Oman	0.102	0.145	3,817	0.102	0.145	3,993	7,810
Pakistan	0.085	0.121	3,181	0.085	0.121	3,328	6,509
Palau	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Panama	0.026	0.037	973	0.026	0.037	1,018	1,991
Papua New Guinea	0.004	0.006	150	0.004	0.006	157	306
Paraguay	0.010	0.014	374	0.010	0.014	391	766
Peru	0.117	0.166	4,379	0.117	0.166	4,580	8,959
Philippines	0.154	0.219	5,763	0.154	0.219	6,029	11,792
Poland	0.921	1.310	34,467	0.921	1.310	36,055	70,522
Portugal	0.474	0.674	17,739	0.474	0.674	18,556	36,295
Qatar	0.209	0.297	7,822	0.209	0.297	8,182	16,003
Republic of Korea	1.994	2.837	74,623	1.994	2.837	78,061	152,684
Republic of Moldova	0.003	0.004	112	0.003	0.004	117	230
Romania	0.226	0.322	8,458	0.226	0.322	8,847	17,305
Rwanda	0.002	0.003	75	0.002	0.003	78	153
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Saint Lucia	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Samoa	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Saudi Arabia	0.864	1.229	32,334	0.864	1.229	33,824	66,158
Senegal	0.006	0.009	225	0.006	0.009	235	459
Serbia	0.040	0.057	1,497	0.040	0.057	1,566	3,063
Seychelles	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Slovakia	0.171	0.243	6,399	0.171	0.243	6,694	13,094
Slovenia	0.100	0.142	3,742	0.100	0.142	3,915	7,657

<i>Party</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessments 2015 (percentage)</i>	<i>Scale with 22% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01 % (percentage)</i>	<i>Contributions as per 1 Jan. 2015 (US\$)</i>	<i>United Nations scale of assessments 2015 (percentage)</i>	<i>Scale with 22% ceiling, no LDC paying more than 0.01 % (percentage)</i>	<i>Contributions as per 1 Jan. 2016 (US\$)</i>	<i>Total contributions 2015-2016 (US\$)</i>
Solomon Islands	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Somalia	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
South Africa	0.372	0.529	13,922	0.372	0.529	14,563	28,485
Spain	2.973	4.230	111,260	2.973	4.230	116,387	227,647
Sri Lanka	0.025	0.036	936	0.025	0.036	979	1,914
Sudan	0.010	0.014	374	0.010	0.014	391	766
Suriname	0.004	0.006	150	0.004	0.006	157	306
Swaziland	0.003	0.004	112	0.003	0.004	117	230
Sweden	0.960	1.366	35,927	0.960	1.366	37,582	73,509
Switzerland	1.047	1.490	39,182	1.047	1.490	40,988	80,170
Syrian Arab Republic	0.036	0.051	1,347	0.036	0.051	1,409	2,757
Tajikistan	0.003	0.004	112	0.003	0.004	117	230
Thailand	0.239	0.340	8,944	0.239	0.340	9,356	18,301
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	0.008	0.011	299	0.008	0.011	313	613
Togo	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Tonga	0.001	0.001	37	0.001	0.001	39	77
Trinidad and Tobago	0.044	0.063	1,647	0.044	0.063	1,723	3,369
Tunisia	0.036	0.051	1,347	0.036	0.051	1,409	2,757
Turkey	1.328	1.890	49,698	1.328	1.890	51,989	101,687
Turkmenistan	0.019	0.027	711	0.019	0.027	744	1,455
Uganda	0.006	0.009	225	0.006	0.009	235	459
Ukraine	0.099	0.141	3,705	0.099	0.141	3,876	7,581
United Arab Emirates	0.595	0.847	22,267	0.595	0.847	23,293	45,560
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5.179	7.369	193,816	5.179	7.369	202,748	396,564
United Republic of Tanzania	0.009	0.010	263	0.009	0.010	275	538
Uruguay	0.052	0.074	1,946	0.052	0.074	2,036	3,982
Venezuela	0.627	0.892	23,465	0.627	0.892	24,546	48,010
Viet Nam	0.042	0.060	1,572	0.042	0.060	1,644	3,216
Yemen	0.010	0.010	263	0.010	0.010	275	538
Zambia	0.006	0.009	225	0.006	0.009	235	459
Zimbabwe	0.002	0.003	75	0.002	0.003	78	153
TOTAL	68.540	100.000	2,630,132	68.540	100.000	2,751,328	5,381,461

BS-VII/8. HANDLING, TRANSPORT, PACKAGING AND IDENTIFICATION (ARTICLE 18)

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recalling decisions BS-III/10 and BS-V/8,

Taking note of the experience and views of Parties and other Governments and relevant international organizations,

Also taking note of the additional analysis conducted by the Secretariat on information concerning potential gaps and inconsistencies in existing standards relevant to the handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms,

1. *Requests* Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and *urges* other Governments:

(a) To continue to take measures ensuring the implementation of requirements in paragraph 2 (a) of Article 18 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and paragraph 4 or 6, as appropriate, of decision BS-III/10;

(b) To continue to identify transboundary movements of living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing, by incorporating the information identified in decision BS-III/10 into existing documentation accompanying living modified organisms;

(c) To cooperate with and support developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in order to build the capacity to implement the identification requirements of paragraph 2 (a) of Article 18 and related decisions;

(d) To make available to the Biosafety Clearing-House any domestic regulatory requirements related to the identification and documentation of living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed or for processing;

2. *Decides*, that a further review of the need for a stand-alone document is not required unless a subsequent meeting of the Parties so decides in the light of the experience gained;

3. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to use existing guidance for handling, transport and packaging of LMOs as referred to in relation to operational objective 1.6 of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to collaborate with relevant international standard-setting bodies and to keep Parties abreast of any new

developments in relevant international regulations and to make such information available in the Biosafety Clearing-House in such a way as to make it easily retrievable;

5. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to provide the Executive Secretary with any additional information that may assist Parties in identifying and applying existing rules and standards, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to make such information available through the Biosafety Clearing-House.

BS-VII/9.
REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON
THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROTOCOL AND
ON BUDGETARY MATTERS: IMPROVING THE
EFFICIENCY OF STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES
UNDER THE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS

A. Plan for the organization of concurrent meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol,

Recognizing that the work under the Cartagena Protocol has increasingly become separated from the work of the Convention resulting in biosafety receiving less attention in implementation and funding,

Recognizing also the limitations that exist in the current organization of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol back-to-back with the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, in terms of achieving a meaningful integration of the work of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety into the work of the Convention,

Taking note of the recommendation 5/2 of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, as regards integrated approaches to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols with a view to improving efficiencies,

Also taking note of the plan for the organization of concurrent meetings of the Conference of the Parties and Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol prepared by the Executive Secretary,⁶

Recognizing that planning for the organization of concurrent meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to its Protocols is an iterative process,

Recognizing also the need for ensuring the availability of financial resources to support the participation of representatives from developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, in the three concurrent meetings,

⁶ UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/7/6/Add.2, annex.

Recalling paragraph 2 of Article 32 of the Convention and Article 29 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety which provide that decisions under the Protocol shall be taken only by the Parties to the Protocol,

1. *Decides* to hold its future ordinary meetings concurrently with the meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in the same two-week period in which the meetings of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention are held;

2. *Calls upon* developed country Parties to increase their contributions to the relevant voluntary trust funds to ensure the full and effective participation of representatives from developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, in the concurrent meetings;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to further refine the plan for the organization of concurrent meetings in the light of recommendation 5/2 of the Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention with a specific focus on the legal, financial and logistical implications of organizing these meetings concurrently, including, by:

(a) Clarifying how the two-week period may be allocated to undertake the work of the three meetings, including the integrity of decision-making under the Convention and the Protocols;

(b) Further considering the practices and lessons learned in organizing concurrent meetings under other multilateral environmental agreements, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions cluster;

(c) Drawing lessons from the experience gained as a result of the organization of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties concurrently with the first meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol;

(d) Reviewing the level of participation of developing country Parties and their representation in relevant sessions of the concurrent meetings referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c) above;

(e) Taking appropriate steps towards streamlining the agenda of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to submit the plan, as revised in accordance with paragraph 3 above to any intersessional process for the preparation of the concurrent organization of the meetings as may be established by the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

5. *Decides* to establish criteria for reviewing experience with the concurrent organization of the meetings at its ninth meeting, in 2018, in order to complete the review at its tenth meeting, in 2020;

6. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its twelfth meeting to take this decision into account in its deliberations related to the organization of concurrent meetings;

B. Establishment of a subsidiary body on implementation

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recalling paragraph 4, Article 29 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which elaborates the measures that the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol is expected to take for the purpose of keeping under review the implementation of the Protocol,

Recalling also Article 30 of the Protocol, which stipulates that any subsidiary body established by or under the Convention may serve the Protocol if so decided by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and in which case the meeting of the Parties is required to specify which functions that subsidiary body has to exercise,

Considering the terms of reference of a subsidiary body on implementation prepared by the Executive Secretary in accordance with the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention at its fifth meeting,

Recognizing the benefits of integrated approaches to the review and support of the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols,

Recognizing also the importance of the full and effective participation of all Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, in the meetings of the subsidiary body on implementation,

1. *Decides* that the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, if established by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its twelfth meeting, will also serve the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

2. *Agrees* that the terms of reference of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as may be adopted by Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its twelfth meeting on the basis of the proposal of the Executive Secretary,⁷ should apply, *mutatis mutandis*,

⁷ UNEP/CBD/COP/12/25/Add.1, annex.

to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation when serving the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

3. *Invites* the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to take this decision into account in its deliberations related to the establishment of a subsidiary body on implementation as well as any views expressed in this regard, including on the terms of reference for this body, as reflected in the report of this meeting.

BS-VII/10.
UNINTENTIONAL TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS
AND EMERGENCY MEASURES (ARTICLE 17)

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

1. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to submit to the Executive Secretary information on actual cases of unintentional transboundary movement and case studies related to their existing mechanisms for emergency measures in case of unintentional transboundary movements of living modified organisms that are likely to have significant adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, including information on existing rapid alert mechanisms and monitoring systems;

2. *Invites* Parties and other Governments, in the context of operational objective 1.8 of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020, to submit views on what constitutes unintentional transboundary movements in contrast with illegal transboundary movements and what type of information should be exchanged through the Biosafety Clearing-House;

3. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments, without prejudice to Article 21 on confidential information, to ensure that, for regulatory purposes, the information provided by a notifier at the time of notification includes all the information necessary to detect and identify the living modified organism, including information that allows for its unique identification and where reference materials may be obtained;

4. *Requests* the Online Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms to continue working on issues relevant to the detection and identification of living modified organisms with a view to achieving the operational objectives of the Strategic Plan relevant to the implementation of Article 17;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue organizing online discussions through the Network of Laboratories focusing on the detection and identification of living modified organisms;

(b) To compile and synthesize the information and case studies submitted by Parties of their existing mechanisms for emergency measures in case of unintentional transboundary movements of living modified organisms;

(c) To create, in the Biosafety Clearing-House, a system for the easy identification of notifications relating to unintentional transboundary movements of living modified organisms within the context of Article 17, and provide cross-references among the notifications and relevant detection methods, where applicable;

(d) To organize, in cooperation with relevant organizations, subject to the availability of funds, capacity-building activities such as online and face-to-face training workshops on sampling, detection and identification of living modified organisms to assist Parties in fulfilling the requirements under Article 17 and towards achieving the relevant outcomes of the Strategic Plan;

(e) To compile and synthesize information submitted through paragraph 2 above for consideration by the Compliance Committee at its thirteenth meeting and, on the basis of this compilation, submit suggested clarifications on what constitutes an unintentional transboundary movement in contrast with an illegal transboundary movement.

BS-VII/11.
NAGOYA – KUALA LUMPUR SUPPLEMENTARY
PROTOCOL ON LIABILITY AND REDRESS

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

1. *Welcomes* those Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety that have deposited their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress;
2. *Calls upon* other Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to expedite their internal processes and to deposit their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Supplementary Protocol as soon as possible with a view to ensuring the entry into force of the Supplementary Protocol in time for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
3. *Calls upon* States that are Parties to the Convention but not Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Protocol, as appropriate, without further delay, so that they can also become Parties to the Supplementary Protocol;
4. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and institutions to undertake or support further awareness-raising and capacity-building activities to promote understanding and implementation of the Supplementary Protocol, including, where appropriate, the development of policy and legislative instruments that provide for response measures for damage to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity resulting from living modified organisms which find their origin in a transboundary movement, taking also into account risks to human health;
5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to organize, subject to the availability of funds, workshops and other awareness-raising and capacity-building activities to improve understanding of the Supplementary Protocol;
6. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to collaborate with relevant organizations to prepare, subject to the availability of funds, an explanatory guide in order to expedite the entry into force and implementation of the Supplementary Protocol.

BS-VII/12. RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT (ARTICLES 15 AND 16)

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recalling paragraph 1(d)(ii) of the annex to decision BS-IV/11 and paragraph 2 of decision BS-V/12,

Also recalling decision BS-VI/12, in particular that the Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms⁸ is not prescriptive and does not impose any obligations on Parties,

Further recalling that the Guidance is intended as a “living document” that may be revised and improved as appropriate and when mandated by the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

1. *Welcomes* the results of the testing of the Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms;
2. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to test or use, as appropriate, the Guidance in actual cases of risk assessment and as a tool for capacity-building activities in risk assessment;
3. *Establishes* the mechanism outlined in the annex to this decision for revising and improving the Guidance on the basis of the feedback provided through the testing with a view to having an improved version of the Guidance by its eighth meeting;
4. *Extends* the Open-ended Online Expert Forum (Online Forum) on Risk Assessment and Risk Management and the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Risk Assessment and Risk Management to work, primarily online and, subject to the availability of funds, through a face-to-face meeting, with revised terms of reference as annexed to this decision, and *expands* the composition of the AHTEG to add one new member from each region;
5. *Invites* Parties to submit (a) information on their needs and priorities for further guidance on specific topics of risk assessment of living modified organisms, and (b) existing guidance on specific topics of risk assessment of living modified organisms;
6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to synthesize the views submitted through paragraph 5 above for consideration of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;

⁸ UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/13/Add.1 available at <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/meetings/documents.shtml?eventid=4715>.

7. *Agrees* to consider, at its eighth meeting, the need for the development of further guidance on topics prioritized on the basis of the needs indicated by the Parties with a view to moving towards operational objectives 1.3 and 1.4 of the Strategic Plan and its outcomes;

8. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to confirm the nominations of their experts who are currently participating in the Online Forum on risk assessment and risk management, *requests* the Executive Secretary to remove the records of experts whose nominations have not been confirmed, and further *invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to nominate additional experts to join the Online Forum using the format for the nomination of experts to the Roster of Experts;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue facilitating the work of the Online Forum and the AHTEG;

10. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to improve the mechanism established in paragraph 6 of decision BS-VI/12 for updating background documents to the Guidance as follows:

(a) Extend the period for commenting on the background documents to three weeks and send an automatic reminder after two weeks to the group operating the mechanism;

(b) Raise awareness of the background documents linked to the Guidance by, for example, adding information and links in the Biosafety Clearing-House and inviting experts in the specific topics of the Guidance to submit background documents;

(c) Index the background documents for author affiliation, for example, government, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and business;

11. *Welcomes* the package that aligns the Guidance and Training Manual;

12. *Invites* Parties and other Governments and relevant organizations to test or use, as appropriate, the package as a tool for, inter alia, capacity-building in risk assessment;

13. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of funds, to conduct capacity-building activities in risk assessment using the aligned package;

14. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and international organizations to provide funds and in-kind assistance to implement the capacity-building activities referred to in paragraph 13 above;

15. *Welcomes* the creation of sections in the Biosafety Clearing-House where scientific information can be submitted and retrieved regarding living modified organisms or specific traits that may have or that are not likely to have adverse effects

on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health;

16. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to continue submitting, through the Biosafety-Clearing House, the information referred to in paragraph 15 above;

17. *Recommends* to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity a coordinated approach with the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on the issue of synthetic biology, taking into account that the provisions of the Protocol may also apply to living organisms resulting from synthetic biology.

Annex

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE OPEN-ENDED ONLINE
FORUM AND AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON
RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

Methodology

1. Taking into account the results of the testing process, established in decision BS-VI/12, the Guidance on Risk Assessment of LMOs shall be revised and improved in accordance with the following mechanism:

(a) After the seventh meeting of the COP-MOP, the Secretariat will group the original comments provided through the testing of the Guidance. The grouping will be done in the form of a matrix based on the following categories: statements that do not trigger changes; editorial and translational changes; suggestions for changes without a specified location in the Guidance; and suggestions for changes to specific sections of the Guidance (sorted by line numbers);

(b) The AHTEG shall review the grouping of comments done by the Secretariat and work on the suggestions for changes;

(c) The AHTEG shall streamline the comments by identifying which suggestions may be taken on board and providing justification for those suggestions that may not be taken on board. The AHTEG will also provide concrete text proposals for the suggestions to be taken on board with a justification where the original suggestion was modified;

(d) The Open-ended Online Forum and the AHTEG shall subsequently review all comments and suggestions with a view to having an improved version of the Guidance for consideration by the COP-MOP at its eighth meeting.

2. While revising and improving the Guidance, an attempt should be made to take into account the topics prioritized by the AHTEG, on the basis of the needs indicated

by the Parties with a view to moving towards operational objectives 1.3 and 1.4 of the Strategic Plan and its outcomes, for the development of further guidance.

3. The AHTEG shall continue to operate the mechanism for regularly updating the list of background documents to the Guidance as established in decision BS-VI/12, paragraph 6, and improved as per paragraph 10 of this decision.

4. Subject to the availability of funds, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management shall meet face-to-face, at least once, prior to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

Expected outcome

5. An improved version of the Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms.

Reporting

6. The Online Forum and the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management shall submit their reports detailing the activities, outcomes and recommendations for consideration by the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

BS-VII/13. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Noting the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Socio-economic Considerations,⁹

Recalling paragraph 1 of Article 26 of the Protocol,

Recognizing that socio-economic considerations referred to in paragraph 1 of Article 26 are those arising from the impact of living modified organisms on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, especially with regard to the value of biological diversity to indigenous and local communities, and are specific to local, national and regional circumstances,

Recognizing also the role and contribution that indigenous and local communities may provide in the development of conceptual clarity on socio-economic considerations,

1. *Decides* to extend the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Socio-economic Considerations, subject to the availability of funds;

2. *Also decides* that the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Socio-economic Considerations should work, in a stepwise approach, on: (i) the further development of conceptual clarity on socio-economic considerations arising from the impact of living modified organisms on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account and improving upon the “Elements of a Framework for Conceptual Clarity on Socio-Economic Considerations” contained in the annex to the report of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Socio-economic Considerations, and any information that may be provided through the activities indicated in paragraph (5) below; and (ii) developing an outline for guidance with a view to making progress towards achieving operational objective 1.7 of the Strategic Plan and its outcomes;

3. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Socio-economic Considerations to submit its report for consideration by the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

4. *Requests* Parties and *invites* other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous and local communities to submit views and comments on the “Elements of a Framework for Conceptual Clarity on Socio-Economic Considerations” contained in the annex to the report of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Socio-economic Considerations;

⁹ UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/7/11/Rev.1.

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To compile and disseminate information on: (i) policies, laws, regulations and guidelines providing for definitions of socio-economic considerations; and (ii) practical applications of socio-economic considerations in decision-making on living modified organisms, including cases where positive and negative socio-economic impacts have been considered;

(b) To convene online discussion groups to facilitate the exchange of views, information and experiences on socio-economic considerations in the context of paragraph 1 of Article 26 of the Protocol, including concerning: international obligations that may be relevant to socio-economic considerations; socio-economic considerations and the value of biological diversity to indigenous and local communities; environment-related aspects of socio-economic considerations, as well as the relationship, if any, with risk assessment and human health-related issues;

(c) To compile and prepare a synthesis of the views and comments referred to in paragraph 4 above for consideration by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Socio-economic Considerations;

(d) To commission, subject to the availability of funds, a study on international agreements that may have relevance to socio-economic considerations as provided for in Article 26 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and to make the report available on the Biosafety Clearing-House;

6. *Invites* development partners to support capacity-building activities on socio-economic considerations as specified in paragraphs 2 (n) and (o) of decision BS-VI/5 (appendix II of decision XI/5 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity).

BS-VII/14. MONITORING AND REPORTING (ARTICLE 33)

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recalling decision BS-I/9, in which it requested Parties to submit their reports on a general frequency of every four years from the date of entry into force of the Protocol, and also *recalling* decisions BS-V/14, BS-VI/14 and BS-VI/15,

Welcoming the comments on the improvement of the reporting format received from Parties during the second national reporting process,

Also welcoming the draft third national reporting format proposed by the Secretariat and *recognizing* the intended role of the information therein contained in facilitating the conduct of both the mid-term review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol as well as the third assessment and review of the Protocol,

Also welcoming the recommendations of the Compliance Committee on the draft third national reporting format,

Taking into consideration the results of the “Survey to gather information corresponding to indicators in the Strategic Plan”,

1. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to make the following changes to the draft third national reporting format, annexed to document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/7/12 and to make the revised format available online through the Biosafety Clearing-House:

(a) Introduce, where possible, the option to reconfirm the same text submitted in previous national reports to the same question;

(b) Introduce, where possible, the possibility to add explanatory text to closed-text question (e.g. Yes/No);

(c) Include the UNEP-GEF BCH III project in the list of options provided in question 147;

(d) Delete question 97;

2. *Requests* Parties to use the revised format for the preparation of their third national report or, in the case of Parties submitting their national report for the first time, to use it for their first national report on the implementation of their obligations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

3. *Invites* Parties to prepare their reports through a consultative process involving all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;

4. *Encourages* Parties to respond to all questions in the reporting format in order to facilitate the monitoring of progress towards the implementation of the objectives identified in the Strategic Plan and also contribute to the third assessment and review of the Cartagena Protocol;

5. *Requests* Parties to submit to the Secretariat their third national report on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety:

(a) In an official language of the United Nations;

(b) Twelve months prior to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, which will consider the report;

(c) Through the Biosafety Clearing-House, or in the format that will be made available by the Secretariat for this purpose, duly signed by the national focal point;

Annex II

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SESSION ON IMPLEMENTATION

Exchange of views on implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biodiversity

I. PANEL PRESENTATIONS

1. The exchange began with presentations from a panel of speakers representing each of the five United Nations regional groupings (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Europe and others), and the Chairperson of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management.

Ms. Nosipho Ngcaba, South Africa

2. Ms. Ngcaba said that the greatest challenge to implementation of the Protocol in her country was finding a sustainable balance between environmental protection and economic and social development. Genetically modified crops were prevalent in South Africa; they included all cotton, 92 per cent of soybean and 87 per cent of maize. Applications for use of genetically modified grapes and potatoes had been rejected on socio-economic grounds. The relevant legislation was the Genetically Modified Organisms Act of 1997, which had been amended in 2006 to align it with the Protocol; environmental legislation, such as the Biodiversity Act; food safety legislation; and the Consumer Protection Act. Decisions were made by consensus in a group representing eight ministries.

3. A national action plan and biodiversity framework had been prepared as part of the country's obligations to the Convention, which included environmental biosafety,

and outlined action to prevent threats to biodiversity in agriculture, science and trade. All the actions were based on independent scientific advice, and engagement with industry was outlined by law. The national development plan included consideration of sustainability in addressing poverty and development, and the bio-economy programme was based on strategic national programmes, enablers of a system of innovation and coordination of all the sectors concerned, including agriculture, industry, the environment and health. Round tables were held with the media to improve public understanding of biotechnology.

4. The key factors in the success of South Africa in implementing the Protocol were inter-ministerial coordination and communication with advice from the scientific community; ensuring a fair, administratively just, transparent system with monitoring before and after approval of applications; clear communication between the general public and biotechnologists; and independent public research capacity.

Ms. Ranjini Warriar, India

5. Ms. Warriar said that biosafety was an integral part of all policies regarding India's rich biodiversity and traditional knowledge. It was enshrined in several articles of the Constitution, in the international obligations of the country, in its environmental and sectoral legislation and policies, in judicial pronouncements including those based on the "polluter pays" principle and in environmental activism, which underscored the importance of the public perception of biotechnology and biosafety and could be harnessed for constructive discussion and debate to enhance public confidence. Educating people and raising awareness about the importance of biosafety was essential.

6. Biosafety was regulated through committees under the authority of the Environmental Protection Act, on genetic manipulation, on genetic engineering and on biotechnology coordination at state and at district levels. A national biodiversity authority regulated access to biodiversity for research and commercial purposes, including genetic modification, under the Biological Diversity Act, 2000, through state boards, management committees and people's registers. Policy frameworks that incorporated biosafety included the national environmental policy, the revised national biodiversity action plan, the national farmers' policy, the plant quarantine order, the Food Safety and Standards Act, the national policy on disaster management, the import policy and the second national biotechnology strategy. The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change was implementing phase 2 of a capacity-building project on biosafety in line with its strategic plan for 2011-2020.

7. The challenges to implementation of the Protocol and enforcement of legislation, policies and programmes were: keeping up with developments in biotechnology; fragmentation of human resources and infrastructure, with limited resources; poor inter-departmental coordination, cooperation and collaboration owing to lack of awareness; inadequate communication among regulatory agencies and various stakeholders; lack of capacity for integrating biodiversity management and biosafety assessment, due mainly to a lack of up-to-date baseline information; and insufficient resource mobilization.

8. Action should be taken to review current institutional capacity at central and state levels to enforce biosafety laws, regulations and policies and to prepare and implement programmes to enhance that capacity that were adapted to developments in biotechnology in the country. All environmental programmes should include a component for capacity development in biosafety. The knowledge and skills of the scientific and technical personnel involved in biosafety management should be continuously upgraded in dedicated programmes. The public should be educated about the importance of biosafety, and public participation in decision-making should be enhanced. The political will of policy-makers should be ensured by continuous engagement with the scientific community, academia and other stakeholders. Centres of excellence should be created with core competence in biosafety. The native biodiversity of the country should be mapped and characterized to update existing baseline information. Finally, the strategic plan 2011-2020 should be used to guide implementation of national policies.

Ms. Angela Lozan, Republic of Moldova

9. Ms. Lozan said that, over the previous two years, her country had integrated biosafety into all national strategic documents, including the national environmental strategy for 2014-2020, in which institutional capacity and the regulatory system would be improved, with enhanced capacity for laboratory detection of living modified organisms. The revised national action plan integrated biosafety issues, with actions consistent with the Cartagena Protocol. Strategies for integrating biosafety into national biodiversity plans were: adopting a conceptual approach for achieving the Aichi biodiversity targets; maintaining synergy between biosafety and biodiversity; requiring awareness-raising, capacity-building and consensus among policy-makers and politicians; training key administrators, policy-makers and experts; and sensitizing the general public. The potential benefits of integrating biosafety into national biodiversity and development plans were enhancing the visibility of biosafety and clarifying its role in sustainable development, facilitating coordination among government departments and increasing opportunities for mobilizing resources.

10. A national biosafety law established the general framework and rules for use of living modified organisms, and a new law was being prepared on the deliberate release of such organisms into the environment and onto the market, which was aligned with the relevant European Union directive. The Republic of Moldova had received assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to develop a biosafety framework and to participate in the clearing-house mechanism. Academia, the Government, NGOs and the mass media were all involved in the biosafety framework, and education on the framework was ensured in the Faculty of Biology and Soil Sciences at the State University. A public opinion survey had shown that more than half the population approved use of living modified organisms, except in food products. A regional course on biosafety had been held in the country on integrative impact assessment of living modified organisms under the Cartagena Protocol, in which a roadmap for risk assessment had been tested.

11. The main activities still required were regional training workshops in risk assessment and risk management, and in the laboratory detection and identification of living modified organisms. Further research was required on socioeconomic considerations as part of decision-making, liability and redress in accordance with the Supplementary Protocol and education and public awareness-raising to foster participation in decision-making.

Ms. Sol Ortiz García, Mexico

12. Ms. Ortiz García presented the work of the Mexican Interministerial Commission on the Biosafety of Genetically Modified Organisms (CIBIOGEM). She recalled that her country had a long history of involvement in genetic engineering and biotechnology, taking the view that science was a motor of development. Its experience of biosafety went back to the late 1980s and in 1996 the first official standard had been established. With GEF assistance it had launched a national biodiversity framework in 2002. A biosafety act and other normative instruments had been adopted and federal policy on the biosafety of GMOs was framed thanks to interinstitutional coordination. Mexican biosafety-related legislation was primarily aimed at preventing, avoiding or reducing possible risks from GMOs to human health, the environment and biodiversity. In view of the rich biological and cultural diversity in the country, the authorities weighed all the risks, challenges (such as climate change) and opportunities when framing biosafety policies.

13. At the international level, biosafety had been addressed since 2000 in the framework of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Following consultations at various levels, all the stakeholders had been involved in the process and, based on consensus, key actions had been selected with a view to establishing NBSAPs. A federal development plan facilitated the incorporation of biosafety issues into the NBSAPs. Mexico's sectoral health plan focused on reducing biosafety-related health risks, while the main aims of the sectoral environment plan were to protect biodiversity, preserve species at risk, and update national regulations to protect, preserve and restore natural resources. Scientific knowledge on the environment and the link with green growth was disseminated and transferred, while the environmental effects of GMOs were monitored. She highlighted the importance of regional cooperation.

14. Mexico was promoting research and innovation in biotechnology to protect biodiversity sustainably. Synergies were encouraged among the public and private sectors and educational institutions to develop and apply biotechnological tools. Under Mexican law, a programme had been launched to develop biosafety and biotechnology for the period 2013–2018 with the specific aim of strengthening the capacities of science, technology and innovation in biotechnology to meet the country's needs within the regulatory framework, based on an interaction between biosafety, biotechnology, international cooperation and communication. The principal challenges facing Mexico were understanding the crosscutting nature of the issue, harmonizing actions in different sectors, overcoming the busy agendas of the ministries concerned, meeting the need to raise awareness, coping with limited human and material resources and increasing coordination among national focal points. The overarching challenge facing

her country was to frame and implement the right policies for the safe and responsible use of biotechnology while attending to the country's needs.

Mr. Casper Linnestad, Norway

15. Noting that the second assessment and review and the online forum had demonstrated that implementation could be hindered by a lack of resources, low awareness of biosafety awareness and national priority issues, Mr. Linnestad began by saying that in Norway resources were reasonable and biosafety awareness was good, with interest groups raising issues and sparking public debates in the mass media. Integration of biosafety into policy, biodiversity plans and programmes was a weak point, but LMOs were nevertheless strictly regulated.

16. Norway had regulated LMOs early on and now had a well-established system for LMO management. The 1993 Norwegian Gene Technology Act provided for a broad range of LMO assessment criteria, liability and redress, information flow and public participation. It also established the Norwegian Biotechnology Advisory Board, which played a key role in the act's application by giving guidance to the government and information to the public. The 15-member board was intended to reflect society at large, including the lay perspective and academia, and therefore represented various fields of expertise and interest groups.

17. Public consultation was mandatory in Norway. Public hearings were coordinated by the Norwegian Environmental Agency, which simultaneously provided information on its website and through the Biosafety Clearing House. Typically, around 50 organizations, advisory bodies, research institutions and interest groups were invited to participate and submit comments, and risk and impact assessments from research institutions and advisory committees were published when available. Once arrived at, national decisions were published through the official gazette and announced through the media.

18. The complexity of the LMO assessment process was heightened by the breadth of assessment criteria provided for in the 1993 Gene Technology Act. When trying to assess additional criteria such as sustainable development and social utility and ethics, advisory bodies, regulators and decision makers in Norway were hampered by a lack of information. Risk assessments from notifiers, while highly relevant, were insufficient, and the Norwegian authorities were currently trying to obtain supplementary information from notifiers through direct requests to the notifiers and specific questions to the European Food Safety Authority network, as well as from other sources such as peer review literature, reports and stakeholders.

Mr. Helmut Gaugitsch, Austria, Chair of the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management

19. Mr. Gaugitsch recalled that COP-MOP4 had decided to establish an open-ended online forum and an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on risk assessment and risk management after intense negotiations among delegates who wished to

ensure that a large number of experts representing the Parties participated in the development of guidance on risk assessment, and those who had been mindful of the cost implications and difficulties of working in a large group. The two groups had worked together to draft and develop a number of guidance documents, on both general and specific topics of risk assessment and on environmental monitoring. To achieve their outcomes, in coordination with the Secretariat, they had relied on innovative means of communication to minimize the need for face-to-face meetings.

20. At COP-MOP 6, the Parties had commended the work of the AHTEG, encouraged Parties to use the guidance in their efforts, and decided to extend the open-ended online forum and create a new AHTEG. The two bodies had been assisting the Secretariat in structuring and focusing testing of the guidance, analysing the results gathered, coordinating the development of a package to align the guidance and training manual, and considering the development of guidance on new topics. The Parties had been encouraged to use the guidance in specific cases to implement the measures specified in Article 17 on unintentional transboundary movements.

21. Through multiple rounds of discussions, the extended open-ended expert forum was increasingly contributing to the work of the new AHTEG. The interplay between moderated online discussions of the whole forum and the work of the AHTEG, which had synthesized all the issues in a face-to-face meeting (held in Bonn, Germany, earlier in the year), had achieved good results efficiently while reducing travel and meeting costs. The process had not always been easy, but they had worked to ensure inclusiveness and full transparency in the online and face-to-face discussions, successfully managing a global multi-stakeholder consultative process led by the Parties.

22. Parties were starting to reap the benefits of the guidance developed at the global level. There had been several regional workshops and training courses, organized by the Secretariat, governments and organizations, successfully using the guidance as training material. At the national level, in their responses to a survey of indicators of the Strategic Plan of the Protocol, many countries had reported using the guidance as part of their relevant national processes. Furthermore, the guidance on risk assessment of LMOs had been tested in cases of risk assessment. The results of the testing showed overwhelming support for the guidance by Parties, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Most Parties that had tested the guidance considered it useful and practical.

23. Experience showed that it was possible to draw on existing knowledge and competence within the Parties, interest groups and the scientific community, working exclusively online in a large group setting, combined with a smaller and more focused group of experts representing Parties and other stakeholders. The guidance developed at global level by the open-ended online forum and the AHTEG on risk assessment and risk management was supporting implementation of the Protocol at national and regional levels. The guidance was a living document which, after thorough testing and review, would be updated and improved. It might be complemented by further guidance, depending on Parties' needs and priorities. Countries were well positioned to integrate the guidance into their national processes and policies, which could assist

implementation of the biosafety-related provisions of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The experience might be extended to other issues of the Protocol and the Convention for the development of technical guidance to assist Parties in implementing their strategic plans.

II. QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION

24. Following the presentations, the representatives of China, the Congo, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Italy, Kenya, Liberia, Malaysia, Niger, Saint Lucia, Turkey, Uganda and Uruguay addressed questions to the panellists.

Responses by Ms. Ngcaba

25. Ms. Ngcaba emphasized the importance of administrative justice in ensuring public participation and in receiving comments and feedback from interested parties. Her country had joined the biosafety clearing-house with the support of the CBD Secretariat and had conducted capacity-building with support from the Global Economic Facility (GEF). Institutionalized capacity-building programmes at the regional level were essential.

Responses by Ms. Warriar

26. Ms. Warriar, responding to questions about whether a dedicated law on biosafety was preferable to inclusion of the issue in other laws, said that no one option would suit all situations. The most difficult challenge in her country had been harnessing political will; most political decisions had been left to the courts, which played a moderating role. With regard to regional cooperation, difficulties had been encountered administrative and financial hurdles.

Responses by Mr. Linnestad

27. Mr. Linnestad concurred with the many speakers who had highlighted the importance of capacity-building, especially for developing countries. He hoped that it would be possible for his country to continue to support such activities. The terms of reference of Norway's biotechnology advisory committee, which had been established 20 years previously, included ethical considerations and social utility.

Responses by Ms. Lozan

28. Ms. Lozan said that her country's participation in the biosafety clearing-house had been supported by GEF. Subsequently, a network of related governmental and nongovernmental organizations had been established to collect national data and provide public information; that had ensured public participation and feedback. National data were then disseminated internationally through the biosafety clearing-house. With regard to the question on whether dedicated legislation on biosafety was preferable, she said a law providing a general biosafety framework could be complemented by sectoral laws on, e.g. seeds, plant varieties, consumer protection and health care.

Responses by Ms. Ortiz García

29. Ms. Ortiz García, replying to questions about dealing with adverse public opinion, said that constant effort was required to communicate the objectives of biosafety measures to the media and to decision-makers. With regard to regional cooperation, it was important to ensure direct resources for capacity-building and training.

Responses by Mr. Gaugitsch

30. Mr. Gaugitsch emphasized that the draft guidance prepared by the AHTEG would be useful in distinguishing between risk assessment and environmental impact assessment. The latter gave indications of risks.

III. GENERAL DISCUSSION

31. Following the question-and-answer session, statements were made by the representatives of Belarus, Belgium, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Japan, Kenya, Kiribati, Malaysia, Nigeria, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Sudan and Uganda.

32. Citing the lack of time, the Chair invited other Parties to submit written statements, and Bhutan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Senegal, Swaziland and Turkey did so. UNEP also provided a written statement.

33. Many Parties welcomed the focus on implementation, as it was essential to the effectiveness of Protocol. Many Parties concurred with the observations in the synthesis report. One Party, however, felt that the report was too focused on implementation at the national level, and called for more countries, particularly exporter countries, to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Protocol so that the focal issue of transboundary movements could be addressed. Another Party highlighted the general need for instruments like the Protocol to be updated and revised to keep pace with technology in order to facilitate implementation.

34. Many Parties reported on their progress in implementing the Protocol, highlighting areas of success and challenge. Most Parties had a legal framework for biosafety. Some had been able to begin implementing the Protocol under existing legislation passed even before the Protocol was signed, while others had passed specific biosafety legislation more recently or were about to do so.

35. Several Parties reported successes in areas such as developing science-based guidelines for various aspects of implementation, integrating biosafety into national development plans and national biodiversity strategy and action plans (NBSAPs) where the political will existed, increasing public awareness and providing training to relevant agencies such as customs officers and border inspectors.

36. Among the challenges to implementation of the Protocol, many were country-specific, although there were certain common denominators. Developing Parties,

in particular, highlighted the need for assistance, both technical and financial. The Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Environmental Programme were mentioned as key partners for technical and financial assistance. Several Parties, as well as UNEP, deemed the allocation of adequate and timely financing through the Global Environment Facility as crucial. Some Parties had experienced difficulty with the application process for various existing funding mechanisms, and suggested that training might be provided in that regard.

37. Many Parties cited a lack of capacity as an impediment to implementation of the Protocol and the general need for capacity building in biosafety management, with the areas of public awareness and participation, risk assessment and risk management, and monitoring of laboratory work specifically mentioned. One Party also highlighted the need for technical capacity building and the exchange of best available tools, as many areas of the Protocol depended on the use of effective and up-to-date technology.

38. Noting that it had conducted three subregional Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) capacity-building workshops in collaboration with UNEP, the Republic of Korea proposed the “Korea Biosafety Capacity Building Initiative”, a six-year programme starting in 2015 that would include regional capacity-building programmes on LMO safety management training and the BCH led by Korea, and on risk assessment training and detection and identification led by the Secretariat.

39. Another common roadblock to implementation was lack of awareness, in both the private and public sectors, exacerbated in some cases by misinformation from anti-GMO activists. There were calls for enhanced reporting to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding important outcomes of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to build awareness among high-ranking government officials, and for a special GEF funding programme to support projects focusing on public awareness and education on GMO issues and provide the public with up-to-date information on safe food and the environment.

40. Parties highlighted the importance of integrating biosafety into NBSAPs, and reported varying degrees of success. One Party called for the development of a guidance document containing clear facts and arguments on important parameters that could be used to convince the authorities.

41. In its written statement, UNEP shared number of points from its field and operating experience with implementation of the Protocol. It urged Parties to review their NBSAPs and incorporate biosafety issues, either through ongoing or new GEF-supported projects. As Parties used the national reporting process as a platform for identifying challenges, lessons learned and best practices, the national reporting format should incorporate sections on these aspects of mainstreaming biosafety into the national policy development process, including NBSAPs. UNEP also suggested that the Secretariat develop a section, platform or portal on the BCH for Parties to share challenges, best practices and lessons learned on implementation of the Protocol. The Secretariat, in collaboration with UNEP, should also develop simplified forms for

internal use by Parties, or guidance on a voluntary basis, to assist with data capture so that data is readily available for review and consolidation when national reports are due for submission. In that regard, UNEP noted that it would be seeking input from the Secretariat and the GEF on a new operational toolkit, currently under peer review, that could be used to support Parties in the preparation of national reports.

