

14. *Reiterates* its call made in decision BS-I/5, paragraph 23, to all Parties and other Governments to establish national coordination mechanisms for biosafety capacity-building;

15. *Invites* developed country Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to provide additional financial and other resources to enable developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, as well as Parties with economies in transition, to participate in the global Coordination Mechanism;

16. *Invites also* developed country Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to assist developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, as well as Parties with economies in transition to build their capacity to establish and implement biosafety coordination mechanisms at the national and regional levels;

17. *Urges* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to regularly update, as appropriate, information on their capacity-building submitted to the Biosafety Clearing-House and to improve the level of detail and quality of the information;

18. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to document and publicize, including through the Biosafety Clearing-House, experiences, best practices and lessons learned in coordination and collaboration;

19. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and regional bodies, including the regional economic commissions of the United Nations, to organize, as appropriate, regional and subregional coordination meetings on capacity-building for biosafety;

20. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations offering to host coordination meetings to invite participants from both recipient countries and donor Governments and organizations in order facilitate effective dialogue on the capacity-building efforts.

Annex

UPDATED ACTION PLAN FOR BUILDING CAPACITIES FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIOSAFETY PROTOCOL

1. Objective of the Action Plan

1. The objective of this Action Plan is to facilitate and support the development and strengthening of capacities for the ratification and effective implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at the national, sub regional, regional and global levels in a timely manner. In this regard, the provision of financial, technical and technological support to developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, as well as countries with economies in transition, including countries amongst these that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, is essential.

2. To achieve the above objective, this action plan aims to provide a general strategic framework to guide and facilitate the identification of country needs, priorities, actions and mechanisms of implementation and funding of capacity-building efforts at the national, regional and international levels.

2. Guiding principles and approaches

3. In light of the operational experience and lessons learned from relevant processes, capacity-building initiatives undertaken in support of this Action Plan should, as appropriate:

(a) Be country-driven, i.e. responsive to the needs and priorities identified by the recipient countries themselves, taking into account the dynamic nature of some capacity-building needs;

(b) Ensure national ownership and leadership, including the setting of the agenda and the design, implementation and coordination of the initiatives;

(c) Ensure systematic and timely participation of all relevant stakeholders in the formulation planning and implementation of capacity-building initiatives;

- (d) Recognizing that capacity-building is a dynamic, progressive and long-term process, apply an adaptive and learning-by-doing approach;
- (e) Maximize synergy and complementarity among all capacity-building initiatives relevant to biosafety;
- (f) Apply a results-oriented approach, focusing on achieving specific capacity-building outcomes;
- (g) Promote policy dialogue with donors and organizations providing biosafety capacity--building assistance and encourage the participation of civil society and the private sector in such dialogue;
- (h) Apply a holistic approach, integrating biosafety activities with relevant sectoral and national policies, strategies and programmes;
- (i) Encourage the development and implementation of nationally-designed and resourced activities that address the specific needs and priorities of each country;
- (j) Promote high level political will and commitment to the implementation of the Protocol.

3. Key elements requiring concrete action

4. The following key elements are meant to be considered in a flexible manner, taking into account the different situations, capabilities and stages of development in each country.

- (a) Institutional capacity-building:
 - (i) Legislative and regulatory framework;
 - (ii) Administrative framework;
 - (iii) Technical, scientific and telecommunications infrastructures;
 - (iv) Funding and resource management;
 - (v) Mechanisms for follow-up, monitoring and assessment;
- (b) Human-resources development and training;
- (c) Risk assessment and other scientific and technical expertise;
- (d) Risk management;
- (e) Awareness, participation and education at all levels, including for decision makers, stakeholders and the general public;
- (f) Information exchange and data management, including full participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House;
- (g) Scientific, technical and institutional collaboration at sub regional, regional and international levels;
- (h) Technology transfer;
- (i) Identification of living modified organisms, including their detection;
- (j) Socio-economic considerations;
- (k) Implementation of the documentation requirements under Article 18.2 of the Protocol;
- (l) Handling of confidential information;
- (m) Measures to address unintentional and/or illegal transboundary movements of living modified organisms;
- (n) Scientific biosafety research relating to living modified organisms;
- (o) The taking into account risks to human health.

4. *Processes/steps*

5. The following processes/steps should be undertaken within appropriate timeframes:
- (a) Identification of existing capacities and assessment of capacity-building needs;
 - (b) Prioritization of the key elements by each country and the sequencing of actions, including development of timelines, for building capacities in biosafety;
 - (c) Mobilization of existing capacities and ensuring their effective utilization;
 - (d) Identification of the coverage and gaps in capacity-building initiatives and resources that could support the ratification and implementation of the Protocol, from the following:
 - (i) Global Environment Facility (GEF);
 - (ii) Multilateral agencies;
 - (iii) Other international sources;
 - (iv) Bilateral sources;
 - (v) Other stakeholders;
 - (vi) National sources;
 - (e) Enhancement of the effectiveness and adequacy of financial resources to be provided by multilateral and bilateral donors and other donors to developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, as well as countries with economies in transition taking, including countries amongst these that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity;
 - (f) Enhancement of synergies and coordination of capacity-building initiatives at different levels;
 - (g) Development of indicators for evaluating capacity-building measures at different levels;
 - (h) Identification and maximization of opportunities for partnerships and collaborative initiatives in order to leverage resources and achieve greater impact.

5. *Implementation*

6. The activities hereunder are indicative tasks to be undertaken at different levels to implement the associated elements and processes identified above. The sequence in which they are listed does not establish any order of priority:

5.1 *National level*

- (a) Assessment of the effectiveness and adequacy of existing capacity;
- (b) Assessment of the short-term and long-term requirements for internal and external funding;
- (c) Development of a national biosafety capacity-building strategy and action plan, prioritizing the capacity-building needs and defining specific objectives, outputs, targets and timelines;
- (d) Integration of biosafety into broader national development strategies and plans, including country Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), country assistance strategies and/or other similar instruments;
- (e) Development and implementation of national biosafety frameworks;
- (f) Development and/or strengthening of institutional, administrative, financial and technical capacities, including the designation of national focal points and competent national authorities;
- (g) Development of a mechanism for handling requests or notifications, including risk assessment and decision-making, as well as public information and participation;

- (h) Establishment of a mechanism for monitoring and compliance;
- (i) Establishment of a mechanism to inform all stakeholders;
- (j) Establishment of a system to facilitate appropriate participation of all relevant stakeholders;
- (k) Establishment and/or strengthening of a national coordination mechanism in order to promote synchronized and synergistic implementation of capacity-building activities and the harmonized use of donor assistance at the country level.

5.2 Subregional and regional levels

- (a) Assessment of national, bilateral and multilateral funding;
- (b) Establishment of regional websites and databases;
- (c) Establishment of mechanisms for regional and sub regional coordination and harmonization of biosafety frameworks, where appropriate;
- (d) Promotion of regional and subregional collaborative arrangements;
- (e) Establishment of regional and subregional advisory mechanisms;
- (f) Establishment and/or strengthening of regional and subregional centres of excellence and training.

5.3 International level

- (a) Ensuring the effective functioning of the Biosafety Clearing-House;
- (b) Enhancing the effectiveness, adequacy and coordination of financial resources provided by multilateral and bilateral donors and other donors to developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them and countries with economies in transition, including countries amongst these that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity;
- (c) Development and effective use of the roster of experts;
- (d) Enhancing synergies and coordination among capacity-building initiatives;
- (e) Strengthening South-South cooperation;
- (f) Development/updating of international guidance by relevant international organizations, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), IUCN and others;
- (g) Regular review and provision of further guidance by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

6. Monitoring and coordination

7. Because of the multitude of different actors undertaking different capacity- building initiatives, mutual information, coordination and regular monitoring will be promoted in order to avoid duplications and to identify gaps. This exercise will lead to a focus of capacity- building on biosafety, ratification, and implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The Secretariat and the Biosafety Clearing-House will be actively involved in the process.

8. The Secretariat will prepare, on the basis of submissions by Governments, a report on the steps taken by countries, multilateral/bilateral and other international actors towards the implementation of the Action Plan. The report will be submitted to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol so that it identifies whether the actions listed under section 5 above have been carried out successfully and effectively.

7. *Review of the Action Plan*

9. A review of the Action Plan will be undertaken every five years by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, based on an independent evaluation of the effectiveness and outcomes of capacity-building initiatives implemented in support of the Action Plan.