

Overview of the post-2020 process for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Notification 2019-027

Brazil appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the elaboration of the Implementation Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety Post-2020 (SP-CPB+2020) and informs that all considerations are made taking into account the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) and CBD's main objectives.

As general guidelines, Brazil would like to emphasize that:

- specific plans, goals, targets or objectives related to the Cartagena Protocol within the post-2020 agenda are submitted to Parties for peer reviews as well as to the consideration of SBSTTA 24 and SBI 3 prior to the final submission for COP-15;
- Parties should focus on the development of risk assessment and management systems and biosafety rules. This is a pillar of the Protocol, unfortunately not yet fulfilled by many Parties;
- points related to the socio-economic impacts of living modified organisms are unacceptable insofar as the Parties to the Protocol have not been able to even agree on a concept of what these impacts are. The ongoing work within the ad hoc group should generate a report that will be evaluated in 2020, which makes it extremely early to set targets in this regard;
- gaps in the implementation of basic biosafety mechanisms such as capacity building and national regulations should be reviewed and continuous support be given by funding agents.

Brazil supports that all Strategic Objectives that were not fully achieved under the previous Strategic Plan be implemented in the new SP-CPB+2020 in order to facilitate the implementation of the CPB. Indicators of the new Strategic Plan should be measurable so as to facilitate the monitoring of the implementation, the biannual Work Plans and the mid-term evaluation that should continue to be carried out after 5 years of adoption of the Plan.

In order to strengthen the role of biosafety and make it more present in other public policies, Brazil also supports an alignment between the SP-CPB+2020 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In light of the above, Brazil calls on Parties to the Convention to act more actively and provide capacity building and support primarily to Parties with limited capacity or inexperience in all fields of Biosafety. This support may be provided through technical and scientific cooperation between the Parties and through the sharing of official Biosafety documents of Parties with extensive experience in Biosafety.

In order to avoid duplication of work, the preparation of new documents on Biosafety should occur only when the Parties deem it necessary by consensus.

Regarding capacity building, Brazil supports that training and updating continue to be carried out at all levels and mainly to the Parties that most need and do not have, or have limited capacity in Risk Assessment and Risk Management (RARM) and detection of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs).

In order to save financial resources, Brazil encourages the use of capacity building, training and updating through online events, as already done in Open-Ended Online Forums.

Brazil also supports the information sharing of regional and national reports and the required information, such as existing laws and regulations, and decisions on LMOs analyzed by the Parties to the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH). Additionally, Brazil encourages that LMOs that have been reviewed several times and have a safe history of human, animal and plant health and the environment are recognized by the Parties as not capable of negatively impacting biological diversity. Brazil also encourages bilateral, sub-regional and regional cooperative arrangements to support Biosafety capacity building activities.

In relation to the structure and content of the Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety Post-2020, Brazil supports it to be similar to the Strategic Plan 2011-2020, containing: I) a vision; II) a mission; III) Strategic Objectives; and iv) Operational Objectives (cf. Annex I).

With regard to Work Plans, Brazil supports that they should continue to be carried out every two years while the mid-term evaluation occurs every 5 years of its adoption, as mentioned before.

With regard to the possible elements of a specific action plan for capacity-building on biosafety, covering the Cartagena Protocol and its Supplementary Protocol, Brazil suggests the following issues:

- a) Analysis of the positive and negative impacts of Biosafety since the adoption of CPB taking into account human, animal and plant health and the environment conservation;
- b) Analysis of the similarities between LMOs and Organisms obtained from Synthetic Biology (Synbio) and the use of the know how obtained in the evaluation of RARM throughout the CPB;
- c) Potential benefits for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity through the use of Synbio;
- e) Improvements in the use of new techniques for the production of LMOs;
- f) Evaluation of the positive and negative impacts of the use of techniques that promote Gene Drive;
- g) Emphasis on science based information sharing to the public and consumers

With regard to the relevant elements of the Biosafety component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, Brazil suggests the following issues for further discussion:

- a) Possible organisms not covered by PCB;
- b) Need for new guidelines and capacity building in Biosafety;
- c) Use of Gene Drive and its impacts on biological diversity.

Biosafety is expected to have its role strengthened and recognized with the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety Post-2020 mainly because of its many proven positive impacts since the adoption of CPB for nearly two decades.

Annex I

Strategic Objective	Expected Impacts	Operational Objectives	Outcomes	Indicators
1 - Establishment of Operational Biosafety Frameworks (OBF) and the implementation of the Protocol	100% of implementation of the PCB	a) Complete PCB Implementation	Compliance with all PCB content	% of the items of a-f implemented by the Party
	100% RARM based on case-by-case basis and based on scientific evidence	b) Accomplish RARM case-by-case and based on scientific evidence	Adequate evaluation of all LMOs	% of RARM assessed by Party
	100% of all established and standardized activities	c) Establish standards for handling, transport, packaging and identification	All activities involving established and standardized LMOs	% of all activities involving LMOs performed by the Party
	100% RARM improved or adapted	d) Promote improvements and adaptations to RARM	All requests for improvement or adaptation made	% of documents that have been improved or adapted
	100% of SECs performed when needed, in a complementary and independent manner to the technical evaluation	e) Carry out the SECs, when necessary, in a complementary and independent manner to the technical evaluation	where necessary, implementation of SECs independently of the technical evaluation	% of SECs assessed by Party
	100% training of Biosafety technicians every 2 years	f) Capacity building of Biosafety technicians	Training of all Biosafety technicians every 2 years	% of Capacity building of Biosafety technicians by the Party
	2 - Strengthen communication and cooperation with BCH and between Parties	100% of submission of information to BCH by the Party	a) Focal point training for submission of information to BCH	submission of all information to BCH
100% of cooperation between Parties		b) Stimulate cooperation between the Parties	At least one cooperation between the Parties	% of cooperation between Parties established

	established every 2 years		established every 2 years	
3 - Capacity building and update	100% capacity building and update among all CBD Parties promoted by the Executive Secretariat	a) Promote capacity building and update between CBD and Parties promoted by the Executive Secretariat	Capacity building and update among all CBD Parties at least every 5 years promoted by the Executive Secretariat	% capacity building and update among all CBD Parties promoted by the Executive Secretariat
	100% Capacity building and updating of all Biosafety technicians every 2 years	b) Promote capacity building and update of Biosafety technicians every 2 years	Capacity building and updating of all Biosafety technicians every 2 years	% Capacity building and updating of all Biosafety technicians every 2 years