

**MALAWI'S VIEWS ON OVERVIEW OF THE POST-2020 PROCESS FOR THE CARTAGENA
PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY**

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**THE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE CARTEGENA PROTOCOL ON
BIOSAFETY**

The current structure of the implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is fine and can be maintained for the post 2020 plan. However, there is need to mainstream biosafety into the Post 2020 global biodiversity framework with specific biosafety targets.

The current implementation plan has not been sufficiently addressed, therefore a strict reflection on the current plan is necessary to consider some relevant areas which were least covered to be carried over to the next plan. An example is the public awareness, education and participation, very little has been done under this thematic area but yet very important for effective implementation of the protocol. The implementation plan would also need to include a component that is aimed at building a broader political support for the Cartagena Protocol on biosafety while also addressing important elements related to the means of implementation at regional and national levels. The role of strategic partners in the implementation plan needs to be articulated and incorporated into the plan.

There are no national plans for the implementation of the biosafety strategic plan. The new implementation plan will therefore need to consider a mechanism for developing national biosafety targets and integrating these as appropriate into NBSAPs.

There is need to develop a resource mobilization component for biosafety that will include specific resources set aside as well as voluntary commitments for additional resources. The scientific and technical cooperation issues should be included in the implementation plan to enhance capacity for implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Regarding indicators, the new plan must as much as possible make indicators simple and measurable (need to avoid combining two areas that can otherwise be measured separately) examples of simple indicators could be like,

- “Number of parties that have designated national focal point”
- “Number or percentage of parties with mechanisms to ensure public participation in LMO decision making”

POSSIBLE ELEMENTS OF A SPECIFIC ACTION PLAN FOR CAPACITY BUILDING ON BIOSAFETY COVERING THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL AND ITS SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL.

1. Considering the uniqueness of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, it requires its own capacity building plan that can take into account the specific technical operational elements of the protocol.
2. Now that the regulatory frameworks are in places for most parties, there is need to emphasize on the implementation component to ensure conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
3. Capacity building should focus on trainers of trainers for parties. Those trained to pass on the knowledge to others at national level.
4. Issues of transboundary are key for the implementation of the protocol hence the need to build capacity on collaboration measures in this area.
5. LMO identification and detection including risk assessment should be carried over in the capacity building plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
6. Learning tours to areas where biotechnology and biosafety has advanced need to be considered as one of the key areas for capacity building.

RELEVANT ELEMENTS OF THE BIOSAFETY COMPONENT OF THE POST 2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

- There is need for the post 2020 to ensure a balanced approach to the three objectives of the convention, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable use and benefit sharing. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety responds to the conservation of biodiversity and in this regard could be incorporated into the framework under this broad objective. The

framework should also have specific indicators for biosafety, which are simple, measurable and achievable.

- There are a lot of emerging technologies whose products are not within scope of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. It is hence necessary to consider review of the protocols under the Convention to respond to development in biotechnology.
- The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety provides risk assessment and risk management frameworks for emerging technologies and would be useful in many aspects of the convention such as in assessing impact of invasive species on biodiversity, unsustainable harvesting of genetic resources among others.