

15 April 2019

Submission by the Republic of Moldova to CBD Notification 2019-Ref: SCBD/CPU/DC/KG/PD/PS/87928:

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

The Republic of Moldova welcomes the further consultation, pursuant to Notification 2019-87928, to develop a specific post-2020 Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety that is anchored in and complementary to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as it was decided at its ninth meeting by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP). COP-MOP also stressed the importance of including biosafety in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Decision CP-9/71). COP-MOP further decided to develop a specific action plan for capacity-building for implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and its Supplementary Protocol (Decision CP-9/32).

Based on the national assessment conclusions of the state of implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and its Supplementary Protocol in Moldova, provided in the 6th NR to the CBD and 3rd NR to the CPB, the further needs were identified to fully commitments with the provisions of the mentioned Protocols. Taking into consideration the newly scientific knowledge and information, as well as uncertainty of the application in the field of use and transfer of LMOs, there is a further need to updating the procedures risk assessment and risk management of LMOs and their possible adverse effects to environment and human health, considerations of socio-economic effects, etc.

The Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for 2011-2020 comprises a vision, a mission statement and five strategic objectives. Taking into consideration the complexity and multidisciplinary content of biosafety, extended cost of the capacity building measures (laboratory detection of LMOs, risk assessment procedures etc.), that not all Parties are in capacity to fully fulfill, there are still needs to continue efforts to develop national and regional activities in line with the strategic objectives. The Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety post-2020 is meaning to advise Parties in establishment of their national capacities for biosafety, focusing on the elements that are still relevant and not fully implemented, as well as involving new technical and scientific knowledge and procedures to meeting new challenges and applications.

We support the decision XI/11 that noted based on the precautionary approach, there is a need to consider the potential positive and negative impacts of components, organisms and products resulting from synthetic biology techniques on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. According the decision 14/19, a need for regular horizon-scanning of the most recent technological developments for reviewing new information regarding potential impacts of synthetic biology was agreed. The precautionary approach should be applied to taking into account the current uncertainties regarding engineered gene drives introducing organisms

containing engineered gene drives into the environment. The specific risk assessment procedures for synthetic biology issues have to be developed under the Cartagena protocol, Annex III.

We would consider that the structure and content of the Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety post-2020 have to be in line with the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for 2011-2020 and provide a logical continuation of the five strategic objectives and to be developed as an implementation tool.

The elements of a specific action plan for capacity-building on biosafety, have to focus on the main objectives of the Cartagena Protocol and its Supplementary Protocol: Risk assessment/management procedures (development of the guidance on specific RA), Socio-economic consideration, RA for synthetic biology; Handling, packaging, labelling and transportation issues, LMOs detection and identification, Liability and redress, Transit, contained use, unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures, BCH and informed decision making, education, awareness and training etc.

The relevant elements of the biosafety component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework should be considered:

1. Facilitating the establishment and further development of effective biosafety systems for the implementation of the Cartagena protocol and the Supplementary protocol;
2. Incorporation of Synthetic biology under the Cartagena Protocol to ensure precautionary principle and prevent potential impacts to biodiversity, environment and human health;
3. Capacity building;
4. Information sharing;
5. Outreach and cooperation.

For the post-2020 biodiversity framework, we envision the 2030 Mission as the “planetary science-based target”. This implies need to implement all actions necessary and sufficient to halt the loss of species, ecosystems, and genetic diversity, as essential for achievement by 2050 to achieve the sustainable development targets”. The mitigation of pressures necessary to maintain individual levels of biodiversity should be achieved.