



ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF
CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

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Date

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Submission from Norway

Overview of the post -2020 process for the Cartagena protocol on Biosafety (CBD notification 2019-027)

In Notification 2019-027 Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations were invited to submit views on:

- (1) the structure and content of the Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety post 2020;
- (2) possible elements of a specific action plan for capacity-building on biosafety, covering the Cartagena Protocol and its Supplementary Protocol; and
- (3) relevant elements of the biosafety component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Norway is of the view that Biosafety is clearly addressed by the Convention of Biological Diversity. The Cartagena Protocol is an international instrument that enables the sound application of modern biotechnology and LMOs. Currently, the number of organisms that have been engineered using different tools and techniques is rapidly increasing. Advancements within synthetic biology enable the development of engineered organisms with new functional devices, or novel biochemical pathways. When such organisms lack a certain familiarity to natural organisms, comparator organisms may not be readily available for conducting traditional risk assessments. This may challenge our ability to assess and understand the possible impacts on biodiversity.

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Norway strongly supports the inclusion of a biosafety component in the post-2020 biodiversity framework. At this stage, however, we do not have concrete text proposals or formulations for a goal or a target. Norway is looking forward to the challenging discussions ahead of us on this matter.

Yours sincerely

Torstein Lindstad
Director

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Senior Adviser

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