



## Press Brief

# Compliance

## Background

In accordance with the mandate given to it by the Protocol, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP), at its first meeting, considered and approved cooperative procedures and institutional mechanisms to promote compliance with the provisions of the Protocol, to address cases of non-compliance by Parties and to provide advice or assistance, where appropriate. It established a Compliance Committee, consisting of 15 members nominated by Parties and elected by the COP-MOP on the basis of three members from each of the five United Nations regional groups, to perform various functions with a view to promoting compliance and addressing cases of non-compliance. The Compliance Committee has held six meetings to date and has so far received two submissions from non-governmental organizations alleging non-compliance with the Protocol. However, it was unable to act on them as it only has a mandate to consider submissions from Parties.

## What has been done?

At its second meeting, the COP-MOP approved the rules of procedure for meetings of the Compliance Committee. At the third and fourth meetings, the COP-MOP considered reports of the Compliance Committee, including its recommendations on various issues. This included, at the fourth meeting of COP-MOP, recommendations from the Committee regarding general issues of compliance with the Protocol based on the information that was made available by Parties through their first national reports.



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## What is expected at COP-MOP 5?

At its fifth meeting, COP-MOP is expected to:

- Provide guidance on how the supportive role of the Compliance Committee could be improved, based on submissions from Parties and how the Committee members could play a facilitative role within their respective regions.
- Consider and provide guidance on how the rate of national reporting on the implementation of the Protocol could be improved in terms of the number of the reports submitted and the quality of information provided.
- Request Parties and encourage other Governments to provide to the Biosafety Clearing-House timely information on their domestic decisions approving LMOs and the risk assessment reports associated with such decisions.
- Call upon Parties as well as other Governments to take the necessary measures to ensure the accuracy and completeness of information they make available to the BCH.



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