



## Press Brief

# Rights and/or Obligations of Parties of Transit of Living Modified Organisms

## Background

The Protocol provides that while the advance informed agreement procedure does not apply to living modified organisms (LMOs) in transit, a Party has the right to regulate LMOs transiting through its territory and make its decision available to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

## What has been done?

At the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP), some Parties highlighted the need for clarification of the rights and/or obligations of transit States. In this regard, the COP-MOP invited Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations to submit views regarding clarification of the rights and/or obligations of transit States, particularly regarding documentation requirements.

At its third meeting, the COP-MOP took note of the submissions that were received and invited further views and information on the experience of Parties on this issue, including whether or not a Party acting only as a Party of transit takes on the obligations of a Party of export under the Protocol.



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## What is expected at COP-MOP 5?

At this meeting, Parties are expected to:

Consider the submissions made to date regarding possible rights and/or obligations of Parties of transit, as well as information on existing regional and national requirements regarding transit of LMOs, and take appropriate action. Possible options include:

- Setting aside any further consideration of this item and encouraging Parties to continue addressing it at the domestic level.
- Referring the issue to the Compliance Committee for its future consideration, as appropriate, when a specific request is made by a Party, or if a need for such consideration is identified through analysis of national reports.

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