



XI Conference of Parties
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
HYDERABAD INDIA 2012

Press Brief - Protocol on Biosafety

Compliance

Background

The compliance procedures and mechanisms under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety were adopted at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP) in accordance with Article 34 of the Protocol. The procedures are cooperative in nature aiming to assisting instead of coercing Parties to comply with the Protocol. The major compliance mechanism is the Compliance Committee which was established to promote compliance with the provisions of the Protocol, and to address cases of non-compliance by Parties and to provide advice or assistance, where appropriate. The Compliance Committee is consisted 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 in their personal capacity.

What has been done since the last meeting of the Parties?

The Compliance Committee has held nine meetings to date and submitted numerous recommendations to the COP-MOP. Most of the recommendations of the Committee have been well received by the COP-MOP. The Committee held its eighth and ninth meetings after the last COP-MOP meeting in October 2010 in Nagoya.

Following the decision of the fifth meeting of the COP-MOP to improve the supportive role of the Compliance Committee by expanding the grounds upon which the Committee may consider taking compliance measures, the Committee had been more active, in the past two years in its review of issues of compliance. Subsequent to its decision at its ninth meeting, the Committee sent a letter to six Parties to the Protocol that have not submitted any national report by that time advising them that they need to fulfil their reporting obligation. The Committee has forwarded its report and recommendations to the sixth meeting of the COP-MOP.

What is expected at COP-MOP 6?

The COP-MOP is expected to consider the recommendations of the Compliance Committee and take appropriate action. It is also expected to elect two nominees from each UN region for membership in the Compliance Committee to replace those members of the Committee whose term is due to end by the end of the year.



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