



XI Conference of Parties  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
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## Press Brief - Protocol on Biosafety

# Risk Assessment and Risk Management

## Background

Parties to the Protocol are required to make decisions on the import of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) for intentional introduction into the environment in accordance with scientifically sound risk assessments. They are also required to adopt measures for managing risks identified during risk assessments.

## What has been done?

At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Biosafety Protocol (COP-MOP) established an Open-ended Online Expert Forum and Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Risk Assessment and Risk Management to develop guidance on specific aspects of risk assessment. As part of the preparation for the work of the AHTEG, a number of ad hoc online discussion groups and regional real-time online conferences were held as part of the Online Forum. At their fifth meeting, the Parties welcomed the Guidance and decided to extend the work of the online forum and AHTEG for further revision, testing and elaboration of further guidance on new specific topics of risk assessment.

As a result, a document entitled "Guidance on Risk Assessment of LMOs" was developed and is under consideration by the current meeting: Part I of the document, "Roadmap for Risk Assessment of LMOs," elaborates the technical and scientific process of environmental risk assessment in accordance with Annex III to the Protocol and provides background material and links to relevant references. Part II: "Specific Types of LMOs and Traits" provides guidance on the risk assessment of LMOs with stacked genes or traits, living modified plants with improved tolerance to abiotic stress, living modified trees and living modified mosquitoes. Part III contains guidance on the "Monitoring of Living Modified Organisms released into the environment".

In response to a request made at the fourth meeting, the Secretariat, in collaboration with other relevant UN bodies and international organizations, developed a draft training manual entitled "Risk Assessment of LMOs" and carried on several training activities at the sub-regional level which were attended by national experts from developing countries.

The training manual has been revised and improved on the basis of recommendations made by participants nominated by the Parties during capacity-building activities. At the request of the Parties, and with a view to delivering training on risk assessment in a more cost-effective manner, the Secretariat has also developed an initial concept for an e-training tool based on the revised training manual. Both the manual and the e-training tool are available through the Biosafety-Clearing House.

## What is expected at COP-MOP 6?

At its sixth meeting, it is anticipated that the COP-MOP might take a decision to:

- Endorse the Guidance and encourage the use and testing of the Guidance in actual cases of risk assessment.
- Develop an advanced educational package that integrates the Roadmap into the training manual.
- Continue the online forum and AHTEG process with new membership or request the Secretariat to end the current online forum and establish a new open-ended online forum.
- Request the Secretariat to further convene training courses and international, regional and/or sub-regional workshops on risk assessment.



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