



XI Conference of Parties  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
HYDERABAD INDIA 2012

## Press Brief - Protocol on Biosafety

# Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification of Living Modified Organisms

## Background

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety requires Parties to take measures to ensure that living modified organisms (LMOs) being moved from one country to another are safely transported, handled and packaged.

The Protocol and some decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP) set specific requirements for the identification of LMOs in shipments moved between countries. The Protocol also requires the COP-MOP to consider whether to develop standards on the identification, handling, packaging and transport of LMOs.

## What has been done?

At previous meetings, the Parties have elaborated requirements for documentation accompanying shipments of LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing; LMOs for contained use; and LMOs for introduction into the environment. They have also considered whether to adopt a stand-alone document that would accompany shipments of LMOs and identify them as such.

The Secretariat has convened a series of regional workshops for customs officers on the identification and documentation of LMOs. The Secretariat is also a partner in the Green Customs Initiative, a network of international organizations that cooperates to enhance the capacity of customs and other relevant enforcement personnel to monitor and facilitate the legal trade and detect and prevent illegal trade in those environmentally-sensitive goods or substances covered by the partner organizations.

Discussions relating to scientific methods for detecting and identifying LMOs have also been convened online through the Biosafety Clearing-House.

## What is expected at COP-MOP 6?

At their sixth meeting, the Parties will consider a study on existing standards relevant to the handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs as well as information from the second national reports on experience with the documentation requirements for LMOs for contained use and LMOs for introduction into the environment.

On the basis of this information, the Parties may decide, among other things:

- That the identification requirements for shipments of LMOs for contained and LMOs for introduction into the environment should be fulfilled through the use of existing documentation systems.
- To request cooperation with other international bodies such as the World Trade Organisation and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development regarding standards on the handling, transport, packaging and identification of LMOs.



Convention on  
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