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COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE UNDER THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

Eighth meeting
Montreal, 5-7 October 2011

REVIEW OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY AS THEY RELATE TO THE WORK OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

**(From Jürg Bally, Chairman of the Committee, with the assistance of the Secretariat, February
2011)**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 5) was held in Nagoya, from 11 to 15 October 2010. The meeting considered the recommendations submitted to it by the Compliance Committee and took decisions accordingly.

2. This document highlights the outcomes of COP-MOP 5 relevant to compliance. It is a review on how and to what extent the recommendations of the Committee were considered and incorporated into the decisions of COP-MOP 5, and it provides some thoughts on how the Committee may wish to carry out its tasks in the next biennium. Accordingly, section II examines the decisions that were taken at COP-MOP 5 vis-à-vis the recommendations that the Committee had proposed in the annex of its report to COP-MOP 5, (i.e., UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/5/2). For ease of reference, a table is provided, as an annex to this document, showing how and to what extent the recommendations of the Compliance Committee have been integrated in the decisions of the Parties to the Protocol. Section III proposes a work plan for the Committee for the next biennium; and section IV presents the current list of members of the Compliance Committee including those who were newly elected at COP-MOP 5.

II. DECISIONS TAKEN BY COP-MOP 5 TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

3. Following the agreement at its seventh meeting in September 2010, the Compliance Committee submitted a report to COP-MOP 5 as contained in document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/5/2. The document presented a consolidated report of the work and recommendations of the Committee undertaken during the intersessional period after COP-MOP 4 by holding its fifth, sixth and seventh

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meetings. The Chairman of the Committee attended COP-MOP 5. He made a statement at the opening plenary session of COP-MOP 5 and submitted the report of the Committee.

4. Following past practices and taking into account the suggestion of the Chairman of the Committee in his address to the plenary of COP-MOP, each of the ten recommendations of the Committee was considered under the agenda items of COP-MOP 5 to which it is most closely related. Accordingly, the recommendations of the Committee were considered under the following agenda items:

- (a) Recommendations 1 and 2 stayed under the agenda item on compliance (item 4);
- (b) Recommendations 3 to 8 were considered under the item on monitoring and reporting (item 15); and
- (c) Recommendations 9 and 10 were considered under the item on the operation and activities of the Biosafety Clearing-House (item 5).

5. In addition, in decision BS-IV/1, the Parties had been invited to submit views on how the supportive role of the Compliance Committee could be improved. These views were compiled by the Secretariat and made available for consideration at COP-MOP 5 along with suggested elements for a draft decision (document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/5/2/Add.1).

6. The discussion below highlights each of the decisions taken by COP-MOP 5 relevant to the issue of compliance and/or the work of the Compliance Committee.

BS-V/1. Report of the Compliance Committee

7. The COP-MOP had invited Parties, at its fourth meeting, to submit views on how the supportive role of the Compliance Committee could be improved, and requested the Executive Secretary to compile the views and to make them available to COP-MOP 5. Accordingly the Secretariat had prepared the compilation of views it received and forwarded them to COP-MOP 5 as document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/5/2/Add.1. The compilation had also suggested elements of a draft decision developed on the basis of the views submitted by Parties.

8. The Committee had the opportunity, at its seventh meeting, to look at the compilation of views and the suggested elements for a draft decision. The Committee's first recommendation submitted to COP-MOP 5 was advice for COP-MOP to adopt the suggested elements of a draft decision. COP-MOP 5 accepted the recommendation and took decision BS-V/1 which adopted all of the suggested elements contained in document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/5/2/Add.1 concerning how the supportive role of the Committee could be improved. Suggested elements (a) to (c) are directly incorporated into the preambular paragraphs of the decision. Subparagraphs (d) and (e), of the suggested elements and the Committee's second recommendation relating in particular to what submissions and what sources of information may be considered by the Committee, as well as the measures that may be taken, are captured in paragraphs 1 and 2 of decision BS-V/1.

9. According to this decision, the Committee may consider cases of difficulties complying with obligations under the Protocol that may be submitted by Parties as well as those obtained through information from national reports, the Secretariat and/or the Biosafety Clearing-House. In such instances, however, the Committee *may only consider* taking measures specified in paragraphs 1 (a) and (b) of section VI of the compliance procedures, annexed to decision BS-I/7, namely the provision of advice or assistance to the Party concerned and/or making recommendations to the Conference of the Parties

serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol regarding the provision of financial and technical assistance, technology transfer, training and other capacity-building measures.

10. Paragraph 2 of decision BS-V/1 is also a reflection of part of the second recommendation of the Committee that calls for maintaining confidentiality and cooperation of the concerned Party when the Committee deals with cases of non-compliance and carries out its supportive role.

11. Paragraph 3 of decision BS-V/1 reflects subparagraph (f) of the suggested elements for a draft decision (document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/5/2/Add.1) encouraging Parties that are facing difficulties complying with one or more of their obligations under the Protocol due to lack of capacity to make a submission to the Compliance Committee relating to their compliance so that facilitative and supportive measures, as appropriate, may be taken by the Committee or the Conference of the Parties

BS-V/2. Operation and activities of the Biosafety Clearing-House

12. The ninth recommendation of the Committee regarding the provision of complete and timely information to the Biosafety Clearing-House has been essentially incorporated in paragraph 1 (a) and (b) of decision BS-V/2.

13. Furthermore, paragraph 10 of decision BS-V/2 addresses the tenth recommendation of the Committee. Consistent with the recommendation of the Committee, COP-MOP has invited “Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations to provide funding and to strengthen and expand initiatives aimed at overcoming obstacles encountered by developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, in meeting their obligations under Article 20 of the Protocol, including capacity-building and the development of infrastructure necessary for facilitating the retrieval and submission of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House.”

BS-V/14. Monitoring and reporting under the Protocol

14. The final preambular paragraph of this decision states that, in taking the decision, Parties to the protocol are taking into account the recommendations of the Compliance Committee concerning national reporting.

15. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the decision expand upon the fourth recommendation of the Committee and the first part of its fifth recommendation, whereby Parties are requested to use the reporting format annexed to the decision for their second national report or, in the case of Parties submitting their national report for the first time, to use it for their first national report and to submit it through the Biosafety Clearing-House or through alternative methods. The decision further instructs on the procedures and methods available for the submission of the reports.

16. Paragraph 6 of the decision addresses the seventh recommendation of the Committee. It encourages (instead of “urges” as recommended by the Committee) Parties to give priority to national reporting when seeking funding from the Global Environment Facility.

17. Paragraph 7, reiterates the third recommendation of the Committee. COP-MOP encourages Parties that encounter difficulty in the timely completion of their reporting obligations to seek assistance from the Secretariat or the Compliance Committee, and use, as appropriate, national experts and experts from the roster of biosafety experts.

18. Paragraph 8 (a) incorporates the Committee's fifth recommendation with regard to adjusting the reporting format of the third and subsequent national reports so as to limit questions to those that require updating only and those that relate to priority areas applicable to the reporting period.

19. Paragraph 8 (b) reflects also the sixth recommendation of the Committee in its entirety. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary is requested to send confidential reminders to the national focal points of individual Parties that do not submit their national report reminding them of their obligation to do so.

20. Paragraph 8 (c) is derived from the Committee's eighth recommendation. In that regard, COP-MOP has requested the Executive Secretary to "organize an online forum, or, subject to the availability of funds, regional or subregional workshops on national reporting with a view to assist Parties in the preparation of their national reports and exchange best practices and experience on the fulfilment of the monitoring and reporting obligations under the Protocol."

BS-V/15. Assessment and review

21. The assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol planned to be carried out over the next biennium and presented to COP-MOP 6 is intended to focus primarily on evaluating the status of implementation of core elements of the Protocol as identified in the annex to decision BS-V/15. The functioning of the Compliance Committee is the thirteenth core element identified by Parties to the Protocol. The corresponding indicators to be considered under this element are: (a) Parties raise issues with the Compliance Committee concerning their own compliance with Protocol obligations; and (b) Compliance Committee has decision-making rules of procedure in place.

22. Pursuant to subparagraph 1 (b) of the decision, the Compliance Committee is also expected to actively participate in the preparation of the assessment and review process itself. This includes compiling any information in relation to its function to review general issues of compliance that may be relevant to the evaluation of the effective implementation of the Protocol. As set out in paragraphs 2 and 3 of decision BS-V/15, this information will be analysed and submitted for review by a regionally balanced ad hoc technical expert group that will make its recommendations to COP-MOP 6.

BS-V/16. Strategic plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020

23. Focal area 3 of the Strategic Objectives contained in annex I to decision BS-V/16 on the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020, relates to the issue of compliance and review. Compliance with and effectiveness of the Protocol will be considered to have been achieved if the following outcomes are reached: (i) each Party fully implements its obligations and regularly monitors the implementation of its obligations under the Protocol, (ii) improved reporting by Parties including by submitting complete and timely national reports, (iii) all Parties are able to enforce their regulatory frameworks and decisions, (iv) sufficient financial resources are allocated to compliance, (v) the Compliance Committee is able to thoroughly review the implementation of obligations by Parties and to propose appropriate measures, and; (vi) the supportive role of the Compliance Committee is improved.

24. In this regard it may be argued that COP-MOP 5, in its decision BS-V/1, has given the Compliance Committee the increased mandate necessary to further achieve the objectives set out, particularly in (v) and (vi) as mentioned in the paragraph above.

BS-V/7. Programme budget for the costs of the Secretariat services for and the biosafety work programme of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the biennium 2010-2011

25. COP-MOP 5 maintained the approved core programme budget as set out in table 1 contained in decision BS-V/7 providing for one meeting of the Compliance Committee per year during the 2011-2012 biennium.

III. PROPOSED WORK PLAN FOR THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE BETWEEN NOW AND COP-MOP 6

26. While the outcomes from COP-MOP 5 do not contain any requests addressed specifically to the Compliance Committee, the decisions do contain certain activities in which the Compliance Committee could play a role in the next biennium. Additionally, the Compliance Committee may be called upon to exercise the usual functions and procedures that are set out in the annex to decision BS-I/7 at its meetings. In doing so, the Committee will need to take into account the expanded mandate, as contained in decision BS-V/1, that allows it to consider information with respect to difficulties of a Party complying with its obligations under the Protocol, that is obtained from other specified sources.

27. The Committee may wish to consider the following in the elaboration of its workplan for the next biennium:

- (i) Developing a strategy or guidelines on how to implement the new (modified) procedures under decision BS-V/1, i.e., improved supportive role of the Committee.

Decision BS-V/1 expands the situations that trigger the compliance procedures. The Compliance Committee may now approach a Party that fails to submit its national report. It is also allowed to approach a Party if information has been received through a national report, or the Secretariat based on information from the Biosafety Clearing-House that shows that that Party is faced with difficulties complying with its obligations under the Protocol.

The Secretariat could develop some notes or a background paper that may assist the Committee in understanding the implications of the expanded mandate and on how best to handle this responsibility. The expanded mandates under decision BS-V/1 could lead to an overwhelming number of cases of non-compliance that the Committee has to consider.

- (ii) Contributing to the assessment and review process planned to be conducted between now and COP-MOP 6:

As mentioned in paragraphs 19 and 20 above, the next assessment and review of the Protocol in the context of Article 35, is expected to be based on information on the implementation of the Protocol gathered through various sources, including the work of the Compliance Committee. The Committee should, therefore, take that into account in conducting its work, in particular in reviewing general issues of compliance. The information needed for the assessment and review needs to be made available sometime early next year.

28. At its seventh meeting, the Compliance Committee agreed to determine the dates of its next meeting in 2011, after consultation with its members and in light of the outcomes from COP-MOP 5. The

proposed work plan for the Compliance Committee for the biennium before COP-MOP 6 is thus as follows:

- (a) Eighth meeting (third quarter of 2011):
 - (i) assessment of the outcomes of COP-MOP 5 relating to compliance and possible implications on the functions of the Committee;
 - (ii) general issues of compliance;
 - (iii) contribution to the assessment and review process;
 - (iv) any other issues that may arise.
- (b) Ninth meeting (third quarter of 2012):
 - (i) general issues of compliance (based on information from second national reports);
 - (ii) cases of non-compliance, if any, based on information from the second national reports;
 - (iii) any other issues that may be pending or may arise; and
 - (ii) preparation and adoption of the report and the recommendations of the Committee for submission to COP-MOP 6.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

29. One further outcome from COP-MOP 5 that is of interest to the Compliance Committee is the election of 4 new members and the re-election of one current member to replace those whose terms has expired at the end of 2010. The fifth meeting of COP-MOP has elected the following:

- (a) ***Africa*** - Mr. Abisai Mafa (Zimbabwe)
- (b) ***Asia & Pacific*** - Dr. Yousef S. Al-Hafedh (Saudi Arabia)
- (c) ***GRULAC**** - Mr. Alejandro Hernández (Costa Rica)
- (d) ***CEE*** - Ms. Natalya Minchenko (Belarus) for 2011-2012 and Ms. Dubravka Stepic (Croatia) for 2013-2014
- (e) ***WEOG*** - Ms. Clare Hamilton (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

30. Accordingly, membership in the Committee for the coming biennium (2011-2012) will be as follows:

1. Mr. Abisai Mafa (Zimbabwe) (31 December 2014),
2. Ms. Mary Fosi Mbantenkhu (Cameroon) (31 December 2012),
3. Dr. Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabher (Ethiopia) (31 December 2012),
4. Dr. Yousef S. Al-Hafedh (Saudi Arabia) (31 December 2014),

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5. Dr. Banpot Napompeth (Thailand) (31 December 2012),
6. Dr. Rai S. Rana (India) (31 December 2012),
7. Ms. Natalya Minchenko (Belarus) (31 December 2012),
8. Dr. Liina Eek (Estonia), (31 December 2012),
9. Dr. Angela Lozan (Moldova) (31 December 2012),
10. Ambassador Raymundo Magno (Brazil) (31 December 2012),
11. Mr. Lionel Michael (Antigua and Barbuda) (31 December 2012)*,
12. Mr. Alejandro Hernández (Costa Rica)) (31 December 2014),
13. Ms. Clare Hamilton (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) (31 December 2014),
14. Mr. Ruben Dekker (Netherlands) (31 December 2012), and
15. Mr. Jürg Bally (Switzerland) (31 December 2012).

V. CONCLUSION

31. The fifth meeting of the Parties to the Protocol considered all the recommendations of the Committee favourably. As seen from the table in the annex below, all of the recommendations were accepted and included in the decisions under the items to which they were considered to be relevant.

* Mr. Lionel Michael (GRULAC) will continue his mandate for 2011-2012. It had been decided at COP-MOP 4 (document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/4/18, paragraph 39) that regional representation for the full four-year term would be shared between Antigua and Barbuda and Cuba. Mr. Lionel Michael would serve in the Committee for half term, for the period 2009-2010 and Ms. Romy Montiel (Cuba) was supposed to replace him for 2011-2012. However, Cuba has informed the Secretariat in writing, after COP-MOP 5, that they want Mr. Michael to complete full term.

Annex

**INTEGRATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
INTO THE DECISIONS OF COP-MOP 5**

Recommendation of the Committee	Decision of COP-MOP 5	Remarks
<p>1. <i>Adopt the suggested elements of a decision concerning how the supportive role of the Committee could be improved (document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/5/2/Add.1);</i></p> <p><u>Suggested elements for a draft decision</u></p> <p><i>The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol may wish to consider the following elements of a draft decision:</i></p> <p><i>(a) Take into account the views submitted by the Parties as compiled in the preceding section of the present document on how the supportive role of the Compliance Committee could be improved;</i></p> <p><i>(b) Recall the objective, nature and underlying principles of the Procedures and Mechanisms on Compliance under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety as provided for in section I of the annex to decision BS-I/7, which underline the promotion of compliance and addressing cases of non-compliance through the provision of advice and assistance; in a simple, facilitative, non-adversarial and cooperative manner; and by paying particular attention to the special needs of developing countries, taking into full consideration the difficulties they face in the implementation of the Protocol;</i></p> <p><i>(c) Recognize the need for building further the confidence of Parties in the role of the Compliance Committee and the application of the compliance procedures and mechanisms of the Protocol by, among other things, emphasizing and strengthening the facilitative and supportive role of the</i></p>	<p><i>BS-V/1. Report of the Compliance Committee</i></p> <p><i>The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,</i></p> <p><i>Taking note of the views submitted by Parties on how the supportive role of the Compliance Committee could be improved (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/2/Add.1),</i></p> <p><i>Taking note also of the recommendations of the Compliance Committee (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/5/2, annex),</i></p> <p><i>Recalling the objective, nature and underlying principles of the Procedures and Mechanisms on Compliance under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety as specified in section I of the annex to decision BS-I/7, which underline the promotion of compliance and addressing cases of non-compliance through the provision of advice and assistance, in a simple, facilitative, non-adversarial and cooperative manner, and by paying particular attention to the special needs of developing countries, taking into full consideration the difficulties they face in the implementation of the Protocol,</i></p> <p><i>Recognizing the need for building further the confidence of Parties in the role of the Compliance Committee and the application of the compliance procedures and mechanisms of the Protocol by, among other things, emphasizing and strengthening the facilitative and supportive role of the Committee as well as mobilizing financial resources, technology transfer and capacity-building projects,</i></p>	<p>The suggested elements for a draft decision are all adopted. Some are incorporated into the preambular paragraphs.</p> <p>Recognizes the three areas (in bold) in this preambular paragraph.</p>

Recommendation of the Committee	Decision of COP-MOP 5	Remarks
<p><i>Committee;</i></p> <p>(d) <i>Decide that, in the event of a submission relating to compliance by any Party with respect to itself in the context of paragraph 1(a), section IV of the annex to decision BS-I/7, the Compliance Committee shall, in response, consider taking only those measures specified in paragraph 1, subparagraphs (a) and (b), section VI of the annex to decision BS-I/7, namely the provision of advice or assistance to the Party concerned and/or making recommendations to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol regarding the provision of financial and technical assistance, technology transfer, training and other capacity-building measures;</i></p> <p>(e) <i>Decide further that the Compliance Committee may also consider taking the measures referred to in subparagraph (d) above in a situation where a Party fails to submit its national report or information has been received through a national report that shows that the Party concerned is faced with difficulties complying with its obligations under the Protocol;</i></p> <p>(f) <i>Encourage Parties that are facing difficulties complying with one or more of their obligations under the Protocol due to lack of capacity to make a submission to the Compliance Committee relating to their compliance with a view to obtain, as appropriate, the necessary advice or assistance from the Committee itself or from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, on the basis of recommendations of the Committee.</i></p>	<p>1. <i>Decides that:</i></p> <p>(a) In the event of a submission relating to compliance by any Party with respect to itself in the context of paragraph 1 (a) of section IV of the annex to decision BS-I/7, the Compliance Committee shall, in response, consider taking only those measures specified in paragraphs 1 (a) and (b) of section VI of the annex to decision BS-I/7, namely the provision of advice or assistance to the Party concerned and/or making recommendations to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol regarding the provision of financial and technical assistance, technology transfer, training and other capacity-building measures;</p> <p>(b) The Compliance Committee may also consider taking the measures referred to in subparagraph (a) above in a situation where a Party fails to submit its national report, or information has been received through a national report or the Secretariat, based on information from the Biosafety Clearing-House, that shows that the Party concerned is faced with difficulties complying with its obligations under the Protocol;</p> <p>3. <i>Encourages</i> Parties that are facing difficulties complying with one or more of their obligations under the Protocol due to lack of capacity to make a submission to the Compliance Committee relating to their compliance so that the Committee or the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol could consider taking facilitative and supportive measures, as appropriate, with a view to helping the Party overcome the difficulties.</p>	<p>Subparagraph 1 (b) is derived in part from the suggested elements for a draft decision (e), but also the first part of recommendation 2. The text relevant to (e) is in bold.</p> <p>Bold part is slightly different from original recommendation and stresses the facilitative and supportive nature of the measures the Compliance Committee and the COP-MOP is to take with a view to helping Parties.</p>
<p>2. Include in the adoption of the suggested elements of a decision referred to in paragraph 1 above, the option of using information from the Biosafety</p>	<p>BS-V/1. Report of the Compliance Committee</p> <p>1. <i>Decides that:</i></p> <p>(b) The Compliance Committee may also</p>	

Recommendation of the Committee	Decision of COP-MOP 5	Remarks
<p><i>Clearing-House and the Secretariat by the Committee in playing its proactive role in the context of element (e); and take into account the need for confidentiality and cooperation between the Committee and the concerned Party in the implementation of draft element (e);</i></p>	<p>consider taking the measures referred to in subparagraph (a) above in a situation where a Party fails to submit its national report, or information has been received through a national report or the Secretariat, based on information from the Biosafety Clearing-House, that shows that the Party concerned is faced with difficulties complying with its obligations under the Protocol;</p> <p>2. <i>Requests</i> the Compliance Committee to carry out its supportive role in accordance with paragraph 1 above in confidence and with the cooperation of the concerned Party;</p>	
<p>3. <i>Encourage Parties that encounter difficulty in the timely completion of their reporting obligations to seek assistance from the Secretariat or the Compliance Committee, and use, as appropriate, national experts and experts from the roster of experts;</i></p>	<p><i>BS-V/14. Monitoring and Reporting</i></p> <p>7. Encourages Parties that encounter difficulty in the timely completion of their reporting obligations to seek assistance from the Secretariat or the Compliance Committee, and use, as appropriate, national experts and experts from the roster of biosafety experts;</p>	

Recommendation of the Committee	Decision of COP-MOP 5	Remarks
<p>4. <i>Urge Parties to fulfil their reporting obligations, using the online reporting facility in the Biosafety Clearing-House or other available reporting methods;</i></p> <p>5. <i>Without prejudice to the need to use the reporting format adopted at the fifth meeting of the Parties by any Party submitting a second national report or a Party submitting a national report for the first time,...</i></p>	<p><i>BS-V/14. Monitoring and Reporting</i></p> <p>2. <i>Requests Parties to use the reporting format for the preparation of their second national report or, in the case of Parties submitting their national report for the first time, to use it for their first national report on the implementation of their obligations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;</i></p> <p>3. <i>Requests Parties to submit to the Secretariat their second national report on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>In an official language of the United Nations;</i></p> <p>(b) <i>Through the Biosafety Clearing-House, or in the Microsoft Word form that will be made available by the Secretariat for this purpose duly signed by the national focal point;</i></p>	<p>Paragraph 2 of this decision specifies that first and second national reports should use the reporting format adopted at MOP 5, as recommended in the first part of paragraph 5 of the Committee's decision.</p> <p>Paragraph 3 gives further instruction on how to submit the report and the alternative method available to those Parties unable to use the BCH for this purpose.</p>
<p>5. <i>Without prejudice to the need to use the reporting format adopted at the fifth meeting of the Parties by any Party submitting a second national report or a Party submitting a national report for the first time, consider adjusting the reporting format of the third and subsequent national reports with a view to relating them to the strategic priorities of the Protocol by limiting subsequent reporting to:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>Questions that require regular updating; and</i></p> <p>(b) <i>Questions relating to priority areas applicable to the reporting period as indicated in the Strategic Plan and the programme of work and as determined by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;</i></p>	<p><i>BS-V/14. Monitoring and Reporting</i></p> <p>8. <i>Requests the Executive Secretary to:</i></p> <p>(a) <i>Consider adjusting the reporting format of the third and subsequent national reports, and make the format available to the appropriate meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, with a view to relating the national reports to the strategic priorities of the Protocol by limiting subsequent reporting to:</i></p> <p>(i) <i>Questions that require regular updating; and</i></p> <p>(ii) <i>Questions relating to priority areas applicable to the reporting period as indicated in the Strategic Plan and the programme of work and as determined by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;</i></p>	

<p>6. <i>Request the Executive Secretary to send confidential reminders to the national focal points of individual Parties that have not submitted their national report of their obligation to do so;</i></p>	<p>BS-V/14. Monitoring and Reporting</p> <p>8. <i>Requests the Executive Secretary to:</i></p> <p>(b) Send confidential reminders to the national focal points of individual Parties that do not submit their national report of their obligation to do so;</p>	
<p>7. <i>Urge Parties to give priority to national reporting when seeking funding from the Global Environment Facility;</i></p>	<p>BS-V/14. Monitoring and Reporting</p> <p>6. <i>Encourages Parties to give priority, as appropriate, to national reporting when seeking funding from the Global Environment Facility;</i></p>	
<p>8. <i>Recognize the facilitative role that regional or sub-regional workshops could play in encouraging and assisting Parties in the preparation of their national reports and exchange of best practices and experience on the fulfilment of the monitoring and reporting obligations under the Protocol, and request the Executive Secretary to organize, subject to the availability of funds, regional or subregional information meetings or workshops on national reporting;</i></p>	<p>BS-V/14. Monitoring and Reporting</p> <p>8. <i>Requests the Executive Secretary to:</i></p> <p>(c) Organize an online forum, or, subject to the availability of funds, regional or subregional workshops on national reporting with a view to assist Parties in the preparation of their national reports and exchange best practices and experience on the fulfillment of the monitoring and reporting obligations under the Protocol; and</p>	<p>With slight variations, the recommendation has been integrated into the decision. In addition, Parties request an online forum be organized, which is not dependent on the availability of funds.</p>

<p>9. Request Parties and encourage other Governments to:</p> <p>(a) Provide, in a timely manner, to the Biosafety Clearing-House information on their domestic decisions approving living modified organisms and the risk assessment reports associated with such decisions;</p> <p>(b) Take the necessary measures to ensure the accuracy and completeness of information that they make available to the Biosafety Clearing-House; and</p> <p>(c) Cooperate fully with the Secretariat in its efforts to maintain complete information in the Biosafety Clearing-House;</p>	<p>BS-V/2. Operation and activities of the Biosafety Clearing-House</p> <p>1. Reminds Parties of their obligations, and invites other Governments, to:</p> <p>(a) Provide to the Biosafety Clearing-House, in a timely manner, complete and accurate information on final decisions pertaining to living modified organisms and the risk assessment summaries regarding such decisions, as well as risk assessment summaries for all instances when requested by the Protocol including, <i>inter alia</i>, intentional introductions of living modified organisms into the environment for field trials regardless of whether or not the living modified organism will be subjected to future transboundary movements or commercialization;</p> <p>(b) Cooperate fully with the Secretariat in its efforts to maintain complete information in the Biosafety Clearing-House;</p>	<p>In order to stress the ongoing nature of this activity, Parties are “reminded” of their obligation to provide the necessary information to the BCH. The sentence structure is altered, but otherwise covers all aspects of the recommendation. Furthermore, the decision specifies what the risk assessment summaries may encompass.</p>
<p>10. Invite Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations to develop initiatives and provide funding to overcome obstacles encountered by developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition in meeting their obligations under Article 20 of the Protocol, including capacity-building and the development of infrastructure necessary for facilitating access to and participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House by each Party.</p>	<p>BS-V/2. Operation and activities of the Biosafety Clearing-House</p> <p>10. Invites Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations to provide funding and to strengthen and expand initiatives aimed at overcoming obstacles encountered by developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, in meeting their obligations under Article 20 of the Protocol, including capacity-building and the development of infrastructure necessary for facilitating the retrieval and submission of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House;</p>	<p>Considering that initiatives have already been in place, the decision instead calls for the “strengthening and expansion” of these.</p> <p>The decision explains that “retrieval and submission of information to the BCH” is participation by Parties</p>
