

**Convention on  
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FOURTH COORDINATION MEETING FOR GOVERNMENTS  
AND ORGANIZATIONS IMPLEMENTING OR FUNDING  
BIOSAFETY CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES  
New Delhi, 11-13 February 2008

**ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA****INTRODUCTION**

1. In its decision BS-1/5, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP) established a Coordination Mechanism to facilitate exchange of information with a view to promoting partnerships and maximizing synergies and complementarities between various capacity-building initiatives. Coordination meetings are one of the key elements of the Coordination Mechanism. The other elements are: the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building in Biosafety, the capacity-building databases, the Biosafety Information Resource Centre and the Biosafety Capacity-Building Network.
2. Coordination meetings provide a forum for individuals from Government agencies, relevant organizations and donors involved in implementing and/or funding biosafety capacity-building activities to, *inter alia*: (i) share information and experiences; (ii) identify key biosafety capacity-building issues, priority needs and gaps and discuss ways to address them; (iii) identify overlaps and potential opportunities for collaboration between existing activities; and (iv) facilitate exchange of views in order to improve the planning and delivery of capacity-building activities.
3. To date, three coordination meetings have been held. The first meeting was held in Montreal from 26 to 27 January 2005. The main outcome was the adoption of operational procedures to guide the coordination meetings and the operational modalities for the Biosafety Capacity-Building Network.
4. The second meeting was held in Tromsø, Norway, from 18 to 20 January 2006. The main outcome of the meeting was the development of an interim guiding framework for promoting synergies and complementarities between biosafety capacity-building initiatives at the country level. The meeting also provided input into the comprehensive review of the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol.
5. The third meeting was held in Lusaka from 26 to 28 February 2007. The main outcome was the development of draft guidance on promoting regional and subregional initiatives and approaches to capacity-building in biosafety. Participants also shared experiences in, discussed the needs and options for building capacities, for the implementation of identification and documentation requirements under

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Article 18, paragraph 2, of the Protocol. The meeting identified a number of areas in which urgent capacity-building support and further guidance are needed by many countries and recommended that the following issues be considered at the next two coordination meetings:

- (a) Socio-economic considerations in decision-making regarding living modified organisms;
- (b) Integration of biosafety into broader national development plans, strategies and programmes, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and the national programmes for achieving the Millennium Development Goals;
- (c) Implementation of the LMO identification and documentation requirements under Article 18, paragraph 2, of the Protocol; and
- (d) Environmental risk assessment and post-release LMO monitoring and evaluation.

6. The present meeting will, pursuant to the recommendations of the previous coordination meeting and the decision of the Steering Committee, consider in-depth and propose measures for enhancing capacity-building and guidance to facilitate implementation of the following issues:

- (a) Socio-economic considerations in decision-making regarding living modified organisms;
- (b) LMO identification and documentation requirements under Article 18, paragraph 2, of the Protocol.

## **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

7. The meeting will be opened by a representative of the Government of India, the host of the meeting, at 9 a.m. on 11 February 2008. A representative from the Convention Secretariat will also make opening remarks.

## **ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

### ***2.1 Election of officers***

8. The meeting will be invited to elect its Chair and Rapporteur from among the participants.

### ***2.2 Adoption of the agenda***

9. The meeting will be invited to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/4/1), developed by the Secretariat in consultation with the Steering Committee and the Government of India, the host of the meeting. The provisional agenda includes three standing items specified in the “operational procedures and guidelines for coordination meetings” that were adopted at the first Coordination Meeting, and the two items referred to in paragraph 6 above.

### ***2.3 Organization of work***

10. Participants will be invited to consider and adopt the proposed organization of work as contained in annex I below. Participants will be invited to raise any other relevant issues related to the building of capacities for the effective implementation of the Protocol under agenda item 5 (Other matters).

### ITEM 3. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

#### 3.1. *Report of the third coordination meeting and the progress made in implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of previous coordination meetings*

11. Under this item, participants will review the report of the third coordination meeting (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/3/3) and consider the status with the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of previous coordination meetings and make suggestions for improvement.<sup>1/</sup> Participants will also updated on the outcomes of other relevant meetings including the second international meeting of academic institutions and organizations involved in biosafety education and training was held in Kuala Lumpur from 16 to 18 April 2007 (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/2/4).

#### 3.2. *Update on ongoing and planned biosafety capacity building projects/initiatives: latest developments and emerging opportunities for collaboration*

12. Under this item, participants will be invited to give short briefs (of no more than three minutes) about their projects/initiatives, in particular the latest developments since the last coordination meeting. Participants wishing to share more detailed information will be invited to submit written reports to the Secretariat prior to the meeting. The information submitted will be compiled and made available as an information document (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/4/INF/1).

#### 3.3. *Consideration of the capacity-building needs of countries and interactions between recipients and providers of capacity-building assistance*

13. Under this item, participants will be invited to consider the capacity-building needs and priorities submitted to the Biosafety Clearing-House and any specific requests for capacity-building assistance made by countries since the last meeting.

14. At the third coordination meeting, participants highlighted the need to expand the scope and function of the coordination meetings beyond the sharing/exchange of information. It was agreed that the meetings should play a bigger role in fostering coordination among different players, for example, by facilitating interactions and inter-linkages between the donor agencies and the organizations implementing biosafety capacity-building activities and the recipient countries. Under this item, group discussions will be organized for participants from recipient countries, organizations and donors interested in working together to address specific issues/needs or work in specific geographical areas.

### ITEM 4. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION

#### 4.1. *Capacity-building initiatives for and experiences gained in addressing socio-economic considerations in decision-making regarding living modified organisms*

15. Article 26 of the Protocol provides that, in reaching a decision on import of living modified organisms under the Protocol or under their domestic measures implementing the Protocol, Parties may

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<sup>1/</sup> Reports of the previous coordination meetings are available at:  
<http://www.cbd.int/biosafety/issues/meetings.shtml>

take into account, consistent with their international obligations, socio-economic considerations arising from the impact of living modified organisms. Parties are also encouraged to cooperate on research and information exchange on any socio-economic impacts of living modified organisms, especially on indigenous and local communities.

16. In decision BS-II/12, the Parties invited Parties, other Governments and organizations with research activities related to socio-economic impacts of living modified organisms to share their information and experiences. The updated Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, adopted in decision BS-III/3, identifies socio-economic considerations as one of the priority areas in which concrete capacity-building action is required.

17. Under this item, participants will hear case-study presentations on the implementation of socio-economic considerations in decision-making regarding living modified organisms. The presentations will highlight experiences gained and lessons learned in the implementation of Article 26 of the Protocol. The capacity-building needs and ongoing efforts and the other practical challenges encountered will also be highlighted. Participants will be invited to exchange views on concrete measures for strengthening the capacities of developing countries in this regard.

***4.2. Capacity-building for and experience gained in the implementation of identification and documentation requirements under Article 18, paragraph 2, of the Protocol***

18. At their third meeting, the Parties to the Protocol adopted decision BS-III/10, on the detailed identification requirements for documentation accompanying living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (Article 18, paragraph 2 (a) of the Protocol). In paragraph 12 of that decision, Parties to the Protocol, other Governments and relevant international and regional organizations were invited to take urgent measures to strengthen capacity-building efforts in developing countries, in order to assist them in the implementation of and benefit from documentation and identification requirements for living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing. In paragraph 10 of the same decision, Parties and other Governments were also encouraged to cooperate in exchanging experiences and building capacities in the use and development of easy to use, rapid, reliable and cost-effective sampling and detection techniques for living modified organisms.

19. Under this item, participants will be invited to exchange views on possible strategies for strengthening the capacities of developing countries to effectively implement the documentation and identification requirements under the Protocol and the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

**ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS**

20. Under this item, participants will be invited to raise any other important matters related to the building of capacities for the effective implementation of the Protocol. Governments and/or organizations wishing to host the next coordination meeting will be invited to make offers.

**ITEM 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

21. Participants will be invited to formulate and adopt the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting, which may be used by the Executive Secretary in preparing the necessary documentation for

consideration by the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Protocol.

**ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

22. It is expected that the meeting will be closed at 5 p.m. on 13 February 2008.

*Annex I***PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

	<b>Plenary</b>
<b>Monday</b> <b>11 February 2008</b> 9 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 1. Opening of the meeting.
9.30 a.m. – 10 a.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 2. Organizational matters: 2.1. Election of officers; 2.2. Adoption of the agenda; 2.3. Organization of work.
<b>10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.</b>	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
10.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 3. Standing items on the agenda: 3.1 Report of the third coordination meeting and the progress made in implementing the conclusions and recommendations of previous coordination meetings; 3.2 Update on ongoing and planned biosafety capacity-building projects/initiatives: latest developments and emerging opportunities for collaboration; 3.3 Consideration of the capacity-building needs and priorities of countries and interactions between recipients and providers of capacity-building assistance.
<b>1 p.m. – 2 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Agenda item 3 ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>3.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.</b>	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 4. Issues for in-depth consideration: 4.1. Capacity-building initiatives for and experiences gained in addressing socio-economic considerations in decision-making regarding living modified organisms.
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>12 February 2008</b> 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 4.2. Capacity-building for and experience gained in the implementation of identification and documentation requirements under Article 18.2 of the Protocol.
<b>10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.</b>	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Agenda item 4 ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>1 p.m. – 2 p.m.</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>

	<b>Plenary</b>
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Agenda item 4 ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>3.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.</b>	<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Agenda item 4 ( <i>continued</i> )
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>13 February 2008</b> 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 5. Other matters; 6. Conclusions and recommendations; 7. Closure of the meeting.

*Annex II*

**DOCUMENTS FOR THE FOURTH COORDINATION MEETING FOR GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS IMPLEMENTING OR FUNDING BIOSAFETY CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES**

**A. Working documents**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/4/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/4/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda

**B. Information documents**

UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/4/INF/1	Update on ongoing and planned biosafety capacity-building projects/initiatives: a compilation of submissions from Governments and organizations
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/3/3	Report of the third Coordination Meeting for Governments and Organizations Implementing or Funding Biosafety Capacity-Building Activities; held 26-28 February 2007, Lusaka, Zambia
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-ET/2/4	Report of the second international meeting of academic institutions and organizations involved in biosafety education and training, held 16-18 April 2007, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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