



Convention on Biological Diversity

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FIFTH COORDINATION MEETING FOR GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS IMPLEMENTING OR FUNDING BIOSAFETY CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

San José, Costa Rica, 9-11 March 2009

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. At its first meeting, which was held in Kuala Lumpur in February 2004, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (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 for the implementation of the Protocol. The key elements of the Coordination Mechanism are: the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building for Biosafety; coordination meetings; capacity-building databases, the Biosafety Information Resource Centre (BIRC); and the Biosafety Capacity-Building Network.
2. The coordination meetings provide a forum through which Government agencies, relevant organizations and donors involved in implementing and/or funding biosafety capacity-building activities: (i) share information and experiences on their ongoing initiatives; (ii) identify key biosafety capacity-building issues, priority needs and gaps and 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, four coordination meetings of Government and organizations involved in implementing and/or funding biosafety capacity-building activities have been held. The first meeting was held in Montreal on 26-27 January 2005; the second in Tromsø, Norway from 18 to 20 January 2006; the third in Lusaka from 26 to 28 February 2007; and the fourth in New Delhi from 11 to 13 February 2008.
4. At the third coordination meeting, the participants identified a number of areas in which urgent capacity-building support and guidance is needed by many countries and agreed to address at least four of those issues at the fourth and fifth coordination meetings. The fourth meeting considered capacity-building for addressing the following issues: (i) socio-economic considerations in decision-making regarding living modified organisms (LMOs); and (ii) identification and documentation requirements under Article 18, paragraph 2, of the Protocol.
5. The present meeting will, in addition to the standing agenda items for coordination meetings, discuss the current status, priority needs, experiences and lessons learned with regard to:

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(a) Capacity-building in environmental risk assessment and post-release monitoring of living modified organisms; and

(b) Capacity-building for integration of biosafety into national development plans, strategies and programmes, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and national programmes for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

6. The meeting will be opened by a representative of the Government of Costa Rica, the host of the meeting, at 9 a.m. on 9 March 2009. A representative from the Convention Secretariat will also make opening remarks.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1 Election of officers

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

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

8. The meeting will be invited to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/5/1), developed by the Secretariat in consultation with the Steering Committee and the Government of Costa Rica, 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 5 above.

2.3 Organization of work

9. Participants will be invited to consider and adopt the proposed organization of work as contained in annex I below. Participants will also 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. Progress report on implementation of the recommendations of previous coordination meetings and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

10. Under this item, participants will review the report of the fourth coordination meeting (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/4/3) and consider the status with the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of previous coordination meetings and make suggestions for improvement.^{1/} Participants will also hear a report on the online conferences organized through the Biosafety Clearing-House. They will also be invited to discuss ways of publishing and maximising the use of the outputs of previous meetings.

^{1/} Reports available at: <http://www.cbd.int/biosafety/issues/meetings.shtml>

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

11. Under this item, participants will be invited to give short briefs (of approximately 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/5/INF/1).

3.3. *Consideration of the capacity-building needs and priorities of countries*

12. Under this item, participants will be invited to consider a synthesis report on capacity-building needs and priorities submitted to the Biosafety Clearing-House and any specific requests for capacity-building assistance made by developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition.

13. Group discussions may also be organized between participants from recipient countries and those from governments and organizations providing capacity-building assistance to discuss any specific needs of countries or measures to synergize their capacity-building assistance.

ITEM 4. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION

4.1. *Capacity-building in environmental risk assessment and post-release monitoring of living modified organisms: current status, priority needs and strategic measures to improve national capacities*

14. Risk assessment and post-release monitoring of living modified organisms are key cornerstones to the achievement of the Protocol's objective. In order to safeguard biological diversity and human health from adverse effects of living modified organisms, countries must carry out pre-release risk assessments to identify and evaluate the potential risks on a case-by-case basis, adopt measures to manage or prevent any risks identified by the risk assessments and periodically monitor the environmental effects of living modified organisms released into the environment in order to detect or predict indirect or unforeseen adverse effects and take appropriate measures in a timely manner. Currently, many developing countries and countries with economies in transition lack capacity in these crucial areas.

15. Under this item, participants will be invited to review the current status of capacity-building in the area of environmental risk assessment and post-release monitoring, identify specific capacity-building needs where priority action is needed and make recommendation on possible concrete measures for addressing the priority needs and advancing the overall capacity-building efforts of countries in these areas. The report of the online conference on "capacity-building in environmental risk assessment and post-release monitoring of LMOs: current status, priority needs and future capacity-building measures" held from 3 to 28 November 2008 (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/5/2) will be made available to facilitate the discussions.

4.2. *Capacity-building for and experiences gained in integrating biosafety into national development plans, strategies and programmes, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and national programmes for achieving the Millennium Development Goals*

16. In its decision BS-III/3, paragraph 7, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol urged Parties and other Governments to integrate biosafety in their broader sustainable development strategies and approaches and programmes such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, where available and when scheduled for revision, as well as those related to the goals and objectives agreed upon at major United Nations conferences and summits, including those agreed upon at the Millennium Summit that are described as the Millennium Development Goals. At their third meeting, participants from of Government and organizations involved in implementing and/or funding biosafety capacity-building activities noted that many countries still lack capacity in this regard and few documented experiences exist.

17. Under this item, participants will be invited to review the report of the online conference on capacity-building for integration of biosafety into national development plans, strategies and programmes to be held from 19 January to 13 February 2009 (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/5/3), share additional information and experiences and make recommendations on possible ways and means of strengthening the capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in this regard.

ITEM 5. OPERATIONAL MODALITIES AND PROGRAMME OF WORK OF FUTURE COORDINATION MEETINGS

18. Under this item, participants will be invited to discuss the operational modalities, the programme of work and other issues related to future coordination meetings. For the purposes of the discussion, it is suggested that the item be split into two sections:

(a) *Review of the operational procedures and guidelines for the coordination meetings and election of a new Steering Committee*, where participants will be invited to review and revise, as appropriate, the operational procedures and guidelines for the coordination meetings which were adopted at the first coordination meeting (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/1/5, annex I). ^{2/} In accordance with the “operational procedures and guidelines for coordination meetings”, they will also be invited to elect a new Steering Committee to serve for the next two years;

(b) *Programme of work for future coordination meetings*, where participants will be invited to exchange views on the medium-term programme of work, including substantive issues, to be addressed by the next two or three coordination meetings. Participants will also be invited to express interest in co-organizing and hosting future coordination meetings.

ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS

19. Under this item, participants will be invited to raise any other matters relevant to capacity-building for the effective implementation of the Protocol.

ITEM 7. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

20. 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

^{2/} Available at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/bs/bscmcb-01/official/bscmcb-01-05-en.doc>

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

ITEM 8. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

21. It is expected that the meeting will be closed at 5 p.m. on 11 March 2009.

Annex I

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

9 March 2009 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.
10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
10.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 3. Standing agenda items: 3.1. Progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of previous coordination meetings and relevant decisions of the Parties to the Protocol; 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.
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch Break
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Agenda item 3 (<i>continued</i>)
3.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 4. Issues for in-depth consideration: 4.1. Capacity-building in environmental risk assessment and post-release monitoring of living modified organisms: current status, priority needs and strategic measures to improve national capacities.
10 March 2009 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 4.2. Capacity-building for and experiences gained in integrating Biosafety into national development plans, strategies and programmes, such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and national programmes for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.
10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> Group discussions on item 4.1
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch Break

2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Agenda item 4 (<i>continued</i>) Group discussions on item 4.2
3.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Agenda item 4 (<i>continued</i>) Group presentations
11 March 2009 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> Group discussions
10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> Consideration of group discussion reports
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch Break
2 p.m. – 5 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 5. Operational modalities and programme of work of future coordination meetings 6. Other matters 7. Conclusions and recommendations 8. Closure of the meeting.

Annex II

DOCUMENTS FOR THE FIFTH 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/5/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/5/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/5/2	Report of the online conference on capacity-building in environmental risk assessment and post-release monitoring of living modified organisms (3 - 28 November 2008)
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/5/3	Report of the online conference on capacity-building for integration of biosafety into national development plans, strategies and programmes (19 January to 13 February 2009)
B. <i>Information documents</i>	
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/5/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/4/3	Report of the fourth Coordination Meeting for Governments and Organizations Implementing or Funding Biosafety Capacity-Building Activities; held from 11 to 13 February 2008 in New Delhi, India
