



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/6/1/Add.1
7 December 2009

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SIXTH COORDINATION MEETING FOR
GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS
IMPLEMENTING OR FUNDING BIOSAFETY
CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES
Siem Reap, Cambodia, 1-3 February 2010
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. In its decision BS-I/5, 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 synergies, complementarities and partnerships between various capacity-building initiatives for the effective implementation of the Protocol. The key elements of the Coordination Mechanism include coordination meetings which provide a forum for Government agencies, relevant organizations and donors involved in implementing and/or funding biosafety capacity-building activities, *inter alia*, to: (i) share information and experiences on 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; and (iv) exchange views to improve the planning and delivery of capacity-building activities.
2. To date, five 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, Zambia, from 26 to 28 February 2007; the fourth in New Delhi, from 11 to 13 February 2008; and the fifth in San Jose, Costa Rica from 9 to 11 March 2009.
3. In addition to facilitating the exchange of information and experiences on ongoing capacity-building initiatives, the previous coordination meetings have identified and discussed specific issues on which many countries urgently require capacity-building guidance and support. At the last coordination meeting, the participants identified the following issues as requiring priority consideration:
 - (a) Public awareness and participation in decision-making regarding living modified organisms;

* UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/6/1.

- (b) Enforcement of national regulatory frameworks;
- (c) Capacity-building in the use of the Biosafety Clearing-House;
- (d) Handling of liability and redress issues at the national level;
- (e) Risk assessment of genetically modified animals.

4. The present meeting will, in addition to the standing agenda items for coordination meetings, focus on the issue of capacity-building for promoting public awareness and participation in decision-making regarding living modified organisms. It will also consider possibilities for cooperation in identifying needs for capacity-building among Parties for research and information exchange on socio-economic impacts of living modified organisms, pursuant to the request made by the Parties to the Protocol in paragraph 3 of decision BS-IV/16.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The meeting will be opened by a representative of the Government of Cambodia at 9 a.m. on 1 February 2010. A representative from the Secretariat will also make opening remarks.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1 Election of officers

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

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

7. The meeting will be invited to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/6/1), developed by the Secretariat in consultation with the Steering Committee for the coordination meetings.

2.3 Organization of work

8. 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 Updates on ongoing and planned biosafety capacity-building projects/initiatives

9. Under this item, participants will be invited to give short presentations (of approximately 3-5 minutes) about their ongoing or planned projects/initiatives, in particular the latest developments since the last coordination meeting. Detailed written reports submitted to the Secretariat prior to the meeting will be made available in an information document (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/6/INF/1).

3.2. *Progress report on implementation of the recommendations of previous coordination meeting and relevant decisions*

10. Under this item, participants will consider the report of the fifth coordination meeting (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/5/4) and review the progress made in implementing the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting.¹ The meeting is also expected to finalize the “Interim Guiding Framework for Promoting Synergies and Complementarities Between Biosafety Capacity-Building Initiatives at the Country Level”, and the “Draft Guidance on Promoting Regional and Subregional Initiatives and Approaches to Capacity-Building in Biosafety” and forward them for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

ITEM 4. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION

4.1 *Capacity-building for addressing socio-economic considerations in decision-making regarding living modified organisms*

11. In paragraph 3 of their decision BS-IV/16, the Parties to the Protocol took note of the recommendations of the fourth coordination meeting and invited the next coordination meeting to further consider possibilities for cooperation in identifying needs for capacity-building among Parties for research and information exchange on socio-economic impacts of LMOs and submit its recommendations for consideration by the fifth meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

12. Under this agenda item, participants will consider the above request and also review the experiences from different countries, including specific examples of socio-economic considerations that have been taken into account in decision making, the challenges encountered and the capacity-building needs and priorities expressed with respect to this issue. The meeting will have before it a draft report of the “Survey on the Application of and Experience in the use of Socio-Economic Considerations in Decision-Making on Living Modified Organisms”, which was conducted in October 2009, by the GEF Coordination Division of the United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity,.

4.2 *Capacity-building in public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms*

13. Public awareness, education and participation are critical elements for ensuring the successful implementation of the Protocol. Article 23 of the Protocol requires Parties to promote and facilitate public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, including access to information on living modified organisms that may be imported. Parties are also required to consult the public in the decision-making process regarding living modified organisms and to inform their public about the means of public access to the Biosafety Clearing-House. In their first national reports, many countries indicated that they lack capacity to meet these obligations.

14. In its decision BS-IV/17, the Parties to the Protocol decided to develop a programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms. The Executive Secretary was requested to prepare a draft programme of work, taking into account the submissions from Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, for consideration at the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

¹ The report of the meeting is available at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/bs/bscmcb-05/official/bscmcb-05-04-en.pdf>

15. Under this item, participants will discuss possible measures and guidance to assist countries in building their capacities in public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms. Case-studies on the experiences from different countries and regions will be presented to facilitate the discussion. The participants will also be invited to review and provide comments on the draft programme of work on public awareness, education and participation prepared by the Executive Secretary.

4.3 Consideration of the draft Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2011-2020)

16. Under this item, participants will be invited to review and provide comments on the draft Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2011-2020), which is being developed by the Executive Secretary pursuant to decision BS-IV/15.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

17. Under this item, participants may be invited to provide comments on the UNEP expert review of the effectiveness of various approaches to capacity-building and the best practices and lessons learned from biosafety capacity-building activities funded by the GEF and other agencies. The participants will also be given opportunity to raise any other matters relevant to capacity-building for the effective implementation of the Protocol.

ITEM 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

18. Participants will be invited to formulate and adopt the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting, some of which may be submitted for consideration by the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Protocol.

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

19. It is expected that the meeting will be closed at 5 p.m. on 3 February 2010.

Annex I

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

1 February 2010 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. Updates on ongoing and planned biosafety capacity-building projects/initiatives;
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch Break
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 3. Standing agenda items: 3.2. Progress report on implementation of the recommendations of previous coordination meeting and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.
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 for addressing socio-economic considerations in decision-making regarding living modified organisms.
2 February 2010 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda item 4.1 (continued):</i> Group discussions on item 4.1
10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 4.2. Capacity-building in public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms.
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch Break
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 4.2 (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.	4.3 Consideration of the draft Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2011-2020)
3 February 2010 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> Consideration of group discussion reports
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 (<i>continued</i>)
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch Break
2 p.m. – 5 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 5. Other matters 7. Conclusions and recommendations 8. Closure of the meeting.

*Annex II***DOCUMENTS FOR THE SIXTH 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/6/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/6/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
B. Information documents	
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/6/INF/1	Compilation of updates on ongoing and planned biosafety capacity-building projects/initiatives submitted by Governments and organizations
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/6/INF/2	Draft Report of the survey on the application of and experience in the use of socio-economic considerations in decision-making on living modified organisms
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/5/4	Report of the fifth Coordination Meeting for Governments and Organizations Implementing or Funding Biosafety Capacity-Building Activities held from 9 to 11 March 2009 in San José, Costa Rica
UNEP/CBD/BS/ COP-MOP/5/./	Draft Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2011-2020)
