

**Convention on
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**LIAISON GROUP ON CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR
BIOSAFETY**

Fifth meeting

New Delhi, 14-15 February 2008

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**INTRODUCTION**

1. The Liaison Group on Capacity-building for Biosafety was established by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in decision BS-1/5, annex IV. It is part the Coordination Mechanism for the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol. Its mandate is to provide expert advice to the Executive Secretary on ways and means to enhance the coordination and effective implementation of the Action Plan, including overall strategic approaches and operational measures for enhancing the capacity-building efforts for effective implementation of the Protocol.

2. At its fourth meeting, the Liaison Group, pursuant to the request made by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in decision BS-III/4, developed, for consideration at the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, draft criteria and minimum requirements for experts to be included in the roster of experts on biosafety and elements of a quality control mechanism for the roster. It also made recommendations on possible general measures to improve the effectiveness and level of use of the roster. In its report (UNEP/CBD/BS/LG-CB/4/3), the Liaison Group identified areas where additional work was required in order to further improve the roster. At the present meeting, the Liaison Group will be invited to make additional suggestions and recommendations.

3. Furthermore, the Liaison Group will be invited to provide advice to the Executive Secretary in the further development and improvement of the preliminary set of criteria and indicators for monitoring implementation of the Action Plan for monitoring implementation of the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol, adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its first meeting. In paragraph 29 of decision BS-1/5, the Executive Secretary was requested to prepare, for consideration at the fourth meeting of the Parties, a report on the operational experience in the use of the preliminary indicators and make proposals for their further development and improvement.

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ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The meeting will be held at the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, (ICGEB) Campus, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi, back-to-back with, and at the same location as, the Fourth Coordination Meeting for Governments and Organizations Implementing or Funding Biosafety Capacity-Building Activities. The meeting will be opened by a representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity at 9 a.m. on Thursday, 14 February 2008.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1 Election of officers

5. The Liaison Group will be invited to elect its Chair and Rapporteur from among the participants in the meeting.

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

6. The meeting will be invited to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/BS/LG-CB/5/1).

2.3 Organization of work

7. The Liaison Group will be invited to decide on its organization of work on the basis of suggestions made by the Executive Secretary, contained in annex I below. Participants will be invited to raise any other relevant issues under agenda item 4 (Other matters).

ITEM 3. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION

3.1 Measures for further improvement of the roster of experts on biosafety

8. At its fourth meeting, the Liaison Group, *inter alia*, developed draft criteria and minimum requirements for the following four broad categories of expertise for the roster of experts: (i) scientific and technical expertise; (ii) legal expertise; (iii) policy and regulatory expertise; and (iv) institutional/administrative expertise in biosafety systems.

9. In paragraph 9 of its report (UNEP/CBD/BS/LG-CB/4/3), the Liaison Group noted that the above-mentioned broad categories needed to be further subdivided into more specific areas of expertise or disciplines. It also noted that it would be useful to develop separate sets of criteria and minimum requirements for the different specific areas of expertise and disciplines. Furthermore, the Group recommended that the Secretariat should prepare a revised nomination form for the roster, taking into account the criteria and minimum requirements contained in this report, for consideration by the Parties to the Protocol at their fourth meeting.

10. The Liaison Group also made recommendations on possible measures to improve the effectiveness and level of use of the roster. Among other things, it was recommended that the website interface for the roster database in the Biosafety Clearing-House should be improved in order to enable users to make initial selections from the general areas of expertise. The Secretariat was requested to seek the views of users of the roster in re-designing the website interface.

11. Under this item, the Liaison Group will be invited to consider the above-mentioned areas where additional work is required. In particular, it will be invited to review and suggest improvements to the draft revised nomination form for the roster, prepared by the Executive Secretary, taking into account the

criteria and minimum requirements proposed at the last Liaison Group meeting. It will also be invited to review and propose additional specific areas of expertise and disciplines under each of the four broad categories developed at the last meeting and recommend, as appropriate, separate sets of criteria for the different specific areas of expertise/disciplines. Furthermore, the Liaison Group will be invited to provide views on the possible re-design of the website interface for the roster database in the Biosafety Clearing-House in order to enable users to make initial selections from the general areas of expertise. .

3.2. Further development of the preliminary set of criteria and indicators for monitoring implementation of the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol

12. At its first meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopted, as annex V of its decision BS-1/5, a preliminary set of criteria and indicators for monitoring implementation of the Action Plan for monitoring implementation of the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol. In paragraph 29 of that decision, the Executive Secretary was requested to prepare a report on the operational experience in the use of the preliminary indicators and make proposals for their further development and improvement, on the basis of submissions from Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations. By the end of 2007, only two countries had made submissions and both indicated that they had no experience to share.

13. Under this item, the Liaison Group will be invited to review and provide comments on the draft proposals prepared by the Executive Secretary for the further development and improvement of the preliminary set of criteria and indicators, contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on the subject prepared for the meeting (UNEP/CBD/BS/LG-CB/5/3).

ITEM 4. OTHER MATTERS

14. Under this item, the Liaison Group may wish to consider any other matter of relevance raised by participants.

ITEM 5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

15. The Liaison Group will be invited to formulate its general conclusions and recommendations, which may be used by the Executive Secretary in preparing documentation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its fourth meeting serving as meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

16. It is expected that the meeting of the Liaison Group will be closed at 5 p.m. on Friday, 15 February 2008.

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

	<i>Plenary</i>
<i>Thursday</i> 14 February 2008 9.00 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 1. Opening of the meeting.
9.30 a.m. to 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.
10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 3. Issues for in-depth consideration: 3.1 Measures for further improvement of the Roster of Experts on Biosafety; 3.2 Further development of the preliminary set of criteria and indicators for monitoring implementation of the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol.
2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 3 (continued)</i>
<i>Friday</i> 15 February 2008 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 3 (continued)</i>
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 4. Other matters 5. Conclusions and recommendations 6. Closure of the meeting

Annex II

**DOCUMENTS FOR THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE LIAISON GROUP ON
CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR BIOSAFETY**

A. *Working documents*

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| UNEP/CBD/BS/LG-CB/5/1 | Provisional agenda |
| UNEP/CBD/BS/LG-CB/5/1/Add.1 | Annotations to the provisional agenda |
| UNEP/CBD/BS/LG-CB/5/2 | Further elaboration of specific areas of expertise and disciplines for the roster of experts on biosafety and the proposed revised nomination form for the roster |
| UNEP/CBD/BS/LG-CB/5/3 | Draft proposals for the further development and improvement of the preliminary set of criteria and indicators for monitoring implementation of the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol |

B. *Information documents*

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| UNEP/CBD/BS/LG-CB/4/3 | Report of the fourth meeting of the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building for Biosafety |
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