



Convention on Biological Diversity

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MEETING OF THE SUB-WORKING GROUPS OF THE
AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON RISK
ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT UNDER
THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY
Bonn, 13-15 February 2012

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP), in its decision BS-IV/11, established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Risk Assessment and Risk Management and an open-ended online forum on specific aspects on risk assessment (hereinafter “the Open-ended Online Forum”)¹ in accordance with the terms of reference annexed to that decision.

2. At its fifth meeting, in decision BS-V/12, the Parties decided to extend the current Open-ended Online Forum and the AHTEG. In the terms of reference annexed to that decision, the Open-ended Online Forum and the AHTEG are to work primarily online and the AHTEG is to meet twice face-to-face prior to the sixth meeting of the Parties with the view to achieving the following expected outcomes:

- (a) A revised version of the “Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms”;
- (b) A mechanism, including criteria, for future updates of the lists of background materials;
- (c) Further guidance on new specific topics of risk assessment, selected on the basis of the priorities and needs by the Parties and taking into account the topics identified in the previous inter-sessional period.

3. At its third meeting, held in Mexico City from 30 May to 3 June 2011,² in discussing outcome (c) above, the Group agreed to develop guidance on the first two topics of a list resulting from the priority-setting exercise conducted in the Open-ended Online Forum, namely:

- (a) Monitoring of LMOs released into the environment; and
- (b) Risk assessment of living modified trees.

4. At that meeting, the Group also agreed to establish two sub-working groups (SWGs) on the chosen topics and developed outlines as basis for further discussions on the development of these

¹ Available through the Biosafety-Clearing House at http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/forum_RA.shtml.

² Report available at <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/meetings/documents.shtml?eventid=4736>.

guidance documents. The Group also developed an action plan³ which contains a detailed summary of the activities to be followed prior to its fourth meeting tentatively scheduled to take place in June 2012.

5. In accordance with its mandate and action plan, the AHTEG SWGs have been working closely with the Open-ended Online Forum in order to draw on the additional scientific expertise available in the Forum. Three rounds of online discussions were carried out between July 2011 and January 2012 for continuous improvement of the guidance documents on “Monitoring of LMOs released into the environment” and “Risk assessment of living modified trees”.

6. As a result of the collaborative work between the AHTEG SWGs and the Open-ended Online Forum, the fourth draft of the guidance documents on “Monitoring of LMOs released into the environment” and “Risk assessment of living modified trees” were developed.

7. In view of the experience gained from a previous face-to-face meeting of the SWGs in facilitating the development of guidance documents and following the generous offers from the Government of Germany to host a similar meeting and from the Government of Norway to provide financial support, the “Meeting of the Sub-Working Groups of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management” will be held in Bonn, from 13 to 15 February 2012.

8. The draft documents on “Monitoring of LMOs released into the environment” and “Risk assessment of living modified trees” will be placed before the SWGs for improvement with a view to achieving the outcome outlined in paragraph 2(c) above.⁴

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

9. The Chair of the AHTEG will open the meeting at 9: a.m. on Monday, 13 February 2012. The opening of the meeting will be followed by short remarks from a representative of the host Government and the Secretariat.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. Adoption of the agenda

10. Participants will be invited to consider and adopt the provisional agenda for the meeting (UNEP/CBD/BS/AHTEG-RA&RM/SWG.2/1/1) prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Chairs of the AHTEG and its sub-working groups.

2.2. Organization of work

11. Participants will be invited to consider the proposed organization of work for the meeting contained in the annex below, in which it is proposed that the sub-working groups will do all their work in plenary.

³ See annex 3 to the meeting report available at http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/forum_RA.shtml.

⁴ These documents will be circulated shortly before the meeting of the sub-working groups.

ITEM 3. SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

3.1. *Further development of the guidance on “Monitoring of LMOs Released into the Environment”*

12. Under this agenda item, participants will be invited to further develop the guidance on “Monitoring of LMOs Released into the Environment” with the view to reaching an advance draft version of this document that will be used as a basis for online discussions under the Open-ended Online Forum in preparation for the fourth meeting of the AHTEG.

3.2. *Further development of the guidance on “Risk Assessment of LM Trees”*

13. Under this agenda item, participants will be invited to further develop the guidance on “Risk Assessment of LM Trees” with the view to reaching an advance draft version of this document that will be used as a basis for online discussions under the Open-ended Online Forum in preparation for the fourth meeting of the AHTEG.

ITEM 4. OTHER MATTERS

14. Under this item, participants will be invited to raise any other matter of relevance to the work of the Sub-working Groups.

ITEM 5. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

15. It is expected that the meeting will be closed as early as possible, but not later than 10.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 15 February 2012.

Annex

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE MEETING OF THE SUB-WORKING GROUPS OF THE AHTEG ON RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Monday, 13 February 2012

9: a.m.	Opening of the meeting (agenda item 1)
Morning	Organizational matters (agenda item 2)
	Further development of the guidance on “Monitoring of LMOs Released into the Environment”: General comments (agenda item 3.1.1)
	Further development of the guidance on “Risk Assessment of LM Trees”: General comments (agenda item 3.2.1)
Afternoon	Further development of the guidance on “Monitoring of LMOs Released into the Environment”: Improvements (agenda item 3.1.2)
Evening	Further development of the guidance on “Monitoring of LMOs Released into the Environment”: Improvements (agenda item 3.1.2) (<i>continued</i>)

Tuesday, 14 February 2012

Morning	Further development of the guidance on “Monitoring of LMOs Released into the Environment”: Improvements (agenda item 3.1.2) (<i>continued</i>)
Afternoon	Further development of the guidance on “Monitoring of LMOs Released into the Environment”: Improvements (agenda item 3.1.2) (<i>continued</i>)
Evening	Further development of the guidance on “Monitoring of LMOs Released into the Environment”: Final reading (agenda item 3.1.3)

Wednesday, 15 February 2012

Morning	Further development of the guidance on “Risk Assessment of LM Trees”: Improvements (agenda item 3.2.2)
Afternoon	Further development of the guidance on “Risk Assessment of LM Trees”: Improvements (agenda item 3.2.2) (<i>continued</i>)
Evening	Further development of the guidance on “Risk Assessment of LM Trees”: Final reading (agenda item 3.2.3)
	Other matters (agenda item 4)
	Closure of the meeting (agenda item 5)
