



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/BSWG/2/1/Add.1
7 March 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

OPEN-ENDED AD HOC WORKING GROUP
ON BIOSAFETY
Second meeting
Montreal, 12 - 16 May 1997

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety was established by decision II/5 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/2/19, pp. 46-48). It held its first meeting from 22 to 26 July 1996 in Aarhus, Denmark. The report on the work of that meeting is contained in document UNEP/CBD/BSWG/1/4.

Item 1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

2. The meeting will take place at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Building, in Montreal. The meeting will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 12 May 1997, by the Chairperson of the Working Group, Mr. Veit Koester (Denmark).

Item 2. Composition of the Bureau in accordance with decision III/20, paragraphs 1 (a) and (b) of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

3. In its decision III/20, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity decided, inter alia:

" (a) That each of the five groups of States referred to in section 1, paragraph 1, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), of 15 December 1972, shall send to the Secretariat nominations for two representatives to the Bureau as soon as possible, and in any event before the commencement of the second meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group established by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties in decision II/5;

" (b) That the Bureau shall remain in office, under the chairmanship of Mr. Veit Koester (Denmark), until the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;"

4. During the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the following nominations were made to the Bureau of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety: Mr. Behran Gebre Egziabher Tewolde (Ethiopia), Mr. David Gamble (New Zealand), Mr. Veit Koester (Denmark) and Mr. Sateaved Seebaluck (Mauritius). Through notes verbales, the Secretariat invited the Coordinators of the groups of countries referred to above for which nominations had not been made during the Conference of the Parties, to provide names to the Secretariat by 15 March 1997.

5. The Meeting will be invited to constitute its Bureau on the basis of the nominations made at the Conference of the Parties and those received thereafter by the Secretariat. In accordance with decision III/20, paragraph 1 (b), the Bureau will remain in office until the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in May 1998.

Item 3. Elaboration of a Protocol on Biosafety in accordance with decision II/5 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

6. In paragraph 1 of its decision II/5, the Conference of the Parties agreed to implement article 19, paragraph 3, of the Convention on Biological Diversity "through a negotiation process to develop, in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, a protocol on biosafety, specifically focusing on transboundary movement, of any living modified organism resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effect on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, setting out for consideration, in particular, appropriate procedure for advance informed agreement". To this end, the Conference of the Parties decided to establish an Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group under the Conference of the Parties.

7. The terms of reference of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group established pursuant to decision II/5 are contained in document UNEP/CBD/BSWG/1/2.

8. In pursuance of the decisions made by the Ad Hoc Working Group at its first meeting, as contained in part V of its report (UNEP/CBD/BSWG/1/4), the Secretariat has prepared the following documents to assist the Working Group in its deliberations:

(a) Compilation of views of Governments on the contents of the future protocol (UNEP/CBD/BSWG/2/2);

(b) Background document on existing international agreements related to biosafety (UNEP/CBD/BSWG/2/3);

(c) Bibliography of relevant literature regarding positive and negative potential socio-economic effects of biotechnology (UNEP/CBD/BSWG/2/4);

(d) Glossary of terms relevant to a biosafety protocol: results from a preliminary survey (UNEP/CBD/BSWG/2/5);

Item 4. Dates and venue of the third meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety

9. The third meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety is scheduled to take place from 13 to 17 October 1997, tentatively to be held in Montreal.

Item 5. Adoption of the report

10. The Working Group will consider and adopt its report.

Item 6. Closure of the meeting

11. The meeting will be closed on Friday, 16 May 1997.

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE SECOND MEETING OF THE
OPEN-ENDED AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON BIOSAFETY

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
1. UNEP/CBD/BSWG/2/1	Provisional agenda
2. UNEP/CBD/BSWG/2/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
3. UNEP/CBD/BSWG/1/2	Terms of reference of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety
4. UNEP/CBD/BSWG/2/2	Compilation of views of Governments on the contents of the future protocol
5. UNEP/CBD/BSWG/2/3	Background document on existing international agreements related to biosafety
6. UNEP/CBD/BSWG/2/4	Potential socio-economic effects of biotechnology: a bibliography
7. UNEP/CBD/BSWG/2/5	Glossary of terms relevant to a biosafety protocol: results of a preliminary survey
8. UNEP/CBD/BSWG/2/Inf. Docs.	Submission of individual Governments/regional groups on the contents of future protocol
