

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental
Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
6 November 2001
(Teleconference)**

Participation:

- Bureau members including: Cameroon (Chair), France, India, Peru, Poland, South Africa, Switzerland and Ukraine.
- The representative of the Netherlands, the host country of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;
- The Executive Secretary of the CBD and other staff of the Secretariat were present.

Agenda:

The meeting adopted the agenda as attached hereto.

Deliberations of the meeting :

1. Proposed provisional agenda for a possible third meeting of the ICCP

In addressing this agenda item, the Bureau took note of recommendation 2/13 of the second meeting of the ICCP and the outcome of its joint meeting with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (6 October 2001) on the need for further preparatory work by the ICCP before the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

The Bureau agreed that the provisional agenda for a possible third meeting of the ICCP should encompass, for further consideration, all the items identified under decision V/1 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and considered by the first and second meeting of the ICCP. The Bureau, however, requested the Secretariat to focus, in preparing the necessary documentation and the annotations for the provisional agenda for ICCP 3, on items that clearly need further consideration in the sense of facilitating decision-making by the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties. In this regard, the Bureau agreed on the following indicative list and annotations of agenda items for the possible third meeting of the ICCP in April 2002, in The Hague, following the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

The ICCP may, at its third meeting, wish to:

(a) *Liability and redress:*

- Analyze the information gathered by the Executive Secretary and the findings of the workshops organized by Parties to the Convention, including case studies as well as identification of activities and situations that need to

be addressed in the field of liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movements of LMOs;

- Conduct initial exchange of views on elements of terms of reference for the ad hoc group of legal and technical experts on liability and redress so that Parties and Governments could be better prepared for their submissions on this matter;
- Consider the possibility of forging some linkages between a process for reviewing paragraph 2, Article 14 of the Convention and the process in connection with Article 27 of the Protocol.

(b) *Compliance:*

- Discuss, on the basis of submissions made by Governments on their views and understandings, the contents of elements that are in square brackets in the text of the draft procedures and mechanisms for a compliance regime under the Biosafety Protocol annexed to recommendation 2/11 adopted by ICCP at its second meeting.

(c) *Monitoring and reporting:*

- Consider the revised format for reporting to be prepared by the Executive Secretary on the basis of comments received on the draft format considered at ICCP 2.

(d) *Capacity building:*

- Consider the following elements:
 - A preliminary set of indicators for the Action Plan for building capacities for the effective implementation of the Protocol;
 - The role of different organizations - especially NGOs, the private sector and scientific and academic institutions - in contributing to capacity building;
 - A report on the status of the UNEP/GEF biosafety capacity building project;
 - A coordination mechanism for the implementation of the Action Plan.

(e) *Capacity building (roster of experts):*

- Consider a report on the status of the roster to be prepared by the Executive Secretary. The Intergovernmental Committee may also address the issue of the development of the pilot phase of a voluntary fund for the purpose of supporting developing country Parties to use the roster, on the basis of a progress report that will be prepared by the Executive Secretary.

(f) *Information sharing:*

- Consider the report/outcome of the independent review to be commissioned by the Executive Secretary. The Intergovernmental

Committee would also consider the progress report on the implementation of the pilot phase of the BCH on the basis of the recommendations made at its second meeting, including the outcomes of regional workshops on the BCH that would be organized during the inter-sessional period.

(g) *Handling, transport, packaging and identification:*

- Consider the reports of the technical experts meetings on paragraphs 2 (a), and 2 b) and 2 (c) of Article 18 that may be convened, depending on the availability of financial resources, during the inter-sessional period;
- Consider also a synthesis report of views and relevant information on paragraph 2 (a) of Article 18 that will be prepared by the Executive Secretary for the purpose of the technical experts meeting on paragraph 2(a), Article 18, and the model template on existing documentation system as it relates to paragraphs 2 (b) and 2 (c) of Article 18.

(h) *Consideration of other issues necessary for the effective implementation of the Protocol (article 29, para.4):*

- Consider the synthesis report on mechanisms for consideration of other issues, which will be prepared by the Executive Secretary on the basis of comments submitted by Governments. The Bureau requested the Executive Secretary to include, in the notification that will be communicated to Parties and Governments requesting them to provide comments on the mechanisms for consideration of other issues, an invitation to provide also a list of possible issues that might be addressed under such mechanisms.

The Bureau also considered the prospect of the inter-sessional experts' meetings recommended by the second meeting of the ICCP as well as the regional workshops on the Biosafety Clearing House. Accordingly, the Bureau:

- Exchanged information on consultations that are under way among Parties and Governments to solicit funds for the meetings, in particular the experts' meetings on paragraph 2(a) on the one hand, and paragraphs 2(b) and 2(c) on the other, of Article 18 of the Protocol.
- Noted that Switzerland is proceeding, in line with its offer made at the second meeting of the ICCP, to assist the Executive Secretary in developing a model template of documentation that was requested by the ICCP with a view to submit it to the technical experts' meeting on paragraphs 2(b) and 2(c) of Article 18.
- Reminded the Executive Secretary to invite the representatives of those regions where similar regional workshops on the BCH were conducted, to the Central and Eastern Europe and the Asia Pacific regional workshops tentatively scheduled for 5-9 February 2002 in Nitra, Slovak Republic, and 4-8 March 2002 in Beijing, China, respectively, with a view to sharing regional experience.

2. Date and venue for the next meeting of the ICCP Bureau

The Bureau agreed to have its next meeting, tentatively, in the second week of February 2002 in Yaounde, Cameroon.

3. Any other matters

No other matters were raised for discussion.

ICCP Bureau meeting, 6 November 2001

Provisional agenda

1. Proposed provisional agenda for ICCP 3 meeting
2. Date and venue of next ICCP Bureau meeting
3. Any other matters