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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY
Seventh meeting
Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 29 September-3 October 2014
Items 10, 16 and 17 of the provisional agenda*

OVERVIEW OF THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES 1.6, 1.8 AND 2.3 OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol (COP-MOP), in decision BS-V/16, adopted the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety covering the period 2011 to 2020. The Strategic Plan comprises a vision, a mission statement and five strategic objectives. For each strategic objective a number of operational objectives, expected outcomes and indicators are outlined.

2. Operational objectives 1.6, 1.8 and 2.3 of the Strategic Plan (table 1) are cross-cutting and directly relevant to the implementation of the Protocol's provisions on unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures (Article 17); handling, transport, packaging and identification (Article 18); and transit and contained use (Article 6) of LMOs. Furthermore, these operational objectives all require Parties to be able to detect and identify LMOs in an accurate, timely and cost-effective manner.

3. To facilitate the deliberations by the Parties at, their seventh meeting, on agenda items 10, 16 and 17, and to avoid a possible duplication of activities arising from the respective decisions, the Secretariat undertook an in-depth analysis of information related to these issues as submitted by Parties through their second national reports, the dedicated survey to gather information corresponding to the indicators of the Strategic Plan[1] and the Biosafety-Clearing House (BCH).

4. Accordingly, the present note presents the results of this analysis in the form of an overview of the status of implementation of operational objectives 1.6, 1.8 and 2.3.

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* UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/7/1.

[1] The COP-MOP, in its decision BS-VI/15, requested the Executive Secretary to undertake a dedicated survey to gather information corresponding to indicators in the Strategic Plan that could not be obtained from the second national reports or through other existing mechanisms. The results of the survey are available at https://bch.cbd.int/database/reports/surveyonindicators.shtml and are summarised in UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/7/INF/10.

Table 1. Operational Objectives 1.6, 1.8 and 2.3 of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Focal Areas	Operational Objectives
Focal area 1: Facilitating the establishment and further development of effective biosafety systems for the implementation of the Protocol To put in place further tools and guidance necessary to make the Protocol fully operational	**1.6 Handling, transport, packaging and identification** To enable Parties to implement the requirements of the Protocol and COP-MOP decisions on identification and documentation requirements for living modified organisms
	1.8 Transit, contained use, unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures To develop tools and guidance that facilitate the implementation of the Protocol's provisions on transit, contained use, unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures
Focal area 2: Capacity-building To further develop and strengthen the capacity of Parties to implement the Protocol	**2.3 Handling, transport, packaging and identification** To develop capacity for handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms

II. STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES 1.6, 1.8 AND 2.3

A. Operational objective 1.6 (handling, transport, packaging and identification): to enable Parties to implement the requirements of the Protocol and COP-MOP decisions on identification and documentation requirements for living modified organisms

Table 2. Operational Objective 1.6 of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Outcomes	*Indicators*	*Relevant items of the provisional agenda*
• All shipments of living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing, contained use or intentional introduction into the environment are identified through accompanying documentation in accordance with the requirements of the Protocol and COP-MOP decisions • Easy to use and reliable technical tools for the detection of unauthorized LMOs are developed and made available	**1.6.1** Percentage of Parties that put in place documentation requirements for living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing	**Item 10:** Handling, transport, packaging and identification
	1.6.2 Percentage of Parties that put in place documentation requirements for living modified organisms for contained use and for intentional introduction into the environment	**Item 17:** Contained use of living modified organisms
	1.6.3 Number of Parties with access to tools that are capable of detecting unauthorized LMOs.	**Item 16:** Unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures

Outcomes	*Indicators*	*Relevant items of the provisional agenda*
• Existing guidance for handling, transport and packaging of LMOs is used	**1.6.4** Number of Parties using guidance developed for the handling, transport and packaging of LMOs	**Item 10:** Handling, transport, packaging and identification

Indicator 1.6.1 *Percentage of Parties that put in place documentation requirements for living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing*

5. Responses to *questions 109* and *110* of the second national report questionnaire produced the relevant information on the status this indicator which is summarized as follows. .

6. In responding to question 109*, "Has your country taken measures to require that documentation accompanying LMOs-FFP clearly identifies that, in cases where the identity of the LMOs is not known through means such as identity preservation systems, they may contain living modified organisms and are not intended for intentional introduction into the environment, as well as a contact point for further information?"*, 32% of the respondents to this question reported that they have taken such measures, 17% reported that they had taken such measures to some extent and 50% of respondents reported not having taken any measures. Among the developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, 61% of respondents reported not having taken any measures while 21% have done so to some extent.

7. Furthermore, in responding to *Question 110*, "*Has your country taken measures to require that documentation accompanying LMOs-FFP clearly identifies that, in cases where the identity of the LMOs is known through means such as identity preservation systems, they contain living modified organisms and are not intended for intentional introduction into the environment, as well as a contact point for further information*?", 35% of respondents reported that they have taken such measures while 21% reported doing so to some extent and the remaining 44% reported not having done it. Among the developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition that answered this question, 54% of respondents reported not having taken such measures while 26% have done so to some extent.

Indicator 1.6.2 *Percentage of Parties that put in place documentation requirements for living modified organisms for contained use and for intentional introduction into the environment*

8. Responses to *questions 111* and *112* of the second national report questionnaire produced the relevant information on the status this indicator which is summarized as follows..

9. In their responses to *Question 111, "Has your country taken measures to require that documentation accompanying LMOs that are destined for contained use clearly identifies them as living modified organisms and specifies any requirements for the safe handling, storage, transport and use, the contact point for further information, including the name and address of the individual and institution to whom the LMO are consigned?",* 41% of the respondents reported that they have taken such measures, 22% have done so to some extent, and 37% reported not having taken any measures. Among the developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, 54% of respondents reported not having taken such measures while 27% have done so to some extent.

10. Furthermore, in responding to *Question 112, "Has your country taken measures to require that documentation accompanying LMOs that are intended for intentional introduction into the environment of the Party of import, clearly identifies them as living modified organisms; specifies the identity and relevant traits and/or characteristics, any requirements for the safe handling, storage, transport and use, the contact point for further information and, as appropriate, the name and address of the importer and exporter; and contains a declaration that the movement is in conformity with the requirements of this Protocol applicable to the exporter?"*, 40% of the reported that they have taken such measures , 17% reported having taken such measures to some extent; and 42% reported not having done it. Among the

developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, 51% of respondents reported not having taken any such measures while 21% have done so to some extent.

Indicator 1.6.3 *Number of Parties with access to tools that are capable of detecting unauthorized LMOs.*

11. Information gathered in response to *question 34* of the second national report questionnaire, *"Does your country have the capacity to detect and identify LMOs?"* produced partial relevant information on the status this indicator as follows.

12. In their responses to this question, 24% of the respondents reported that they have the capacity to detect and identify LMOs. Moreover, 52% of the respondents reported that such capacity exists to some extent. Among developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, only 9% of the respondents indicated that they have the capacity to detect and identify LMOs, while 61% indicated that they have capacity to some extent while the remaining 30% indicated that they do not have the capacity to detect or identify LMOs.

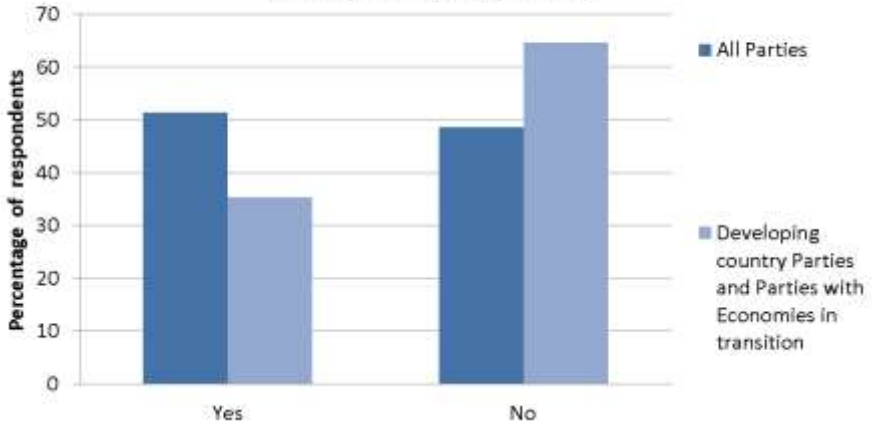
13. It is noted that this question only partially responds to the relevant indicator. The question does not specifically inquire about capacity to detect unauthorised LMOs and thus the actual percentage of Parties that have capacity in this area may be lower.

Indicator 1.6.4 *Number of Parties using guidance developed for the handling, transport and packaging of LMOs*

14. Information gathered in responses to *question 14, "Does your country have available any guidance for the purpose of ensuring the safe handling, transport, and packaging of living modified organisms?"*, of the dedicated survey on indicators of the Strategic Plan produced the information on the status of this indicator as follows.

15. In their responses, as shown in figure 1, 49% of all Parties indicated that they do not have such guidance available. Among developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, 65% indicated that they do not have relevant guidance available for the purpose of ensuring the safe handling, transport, and packaging of living modified organisms.

Figure 1. Does your country have available any guidance for the purpose of ensuring the safe handling, transport, and packaging of living modified organisms?



16. Among the developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition who provided comments to this question, several indicated that the lack of guidance to ensure the safe handling, transport, and packaging of living modified organisms is due to lack of funds, human resources and capacity to develop such guidance. Others also noted that the development of such guidance is foreseen as part of the implementation of their National Biosafety Frameworks.

B. Operational Objective 1.8 (Transit, contained use, unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures): to develop tools and guidance that facilitate the implementation of the Protocol's provisions on transit, contained use, unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures

Table 3. Operational Objective 1.8 of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Outcomes	*Indicators*	*Relevant items of the provisional agenda*
• Parties enabled to manage LMOs in transit • Guidance developed to assist Parties to detect and take measures to respond to unintentional releases of living modified organisms	**1.8.1** Percentage of Parties having in place measures to manage LMOs in transit	**Item 16:** Unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures **Item 17:** Contained use of living modified organisms
	1.8.2 Percentage of Parties having in place measures for contained use	**Item 17:** Contained use of living modified organisms
	1.8.3 Percentage of Parties using the guidance to detect occurrence of unintentional releases of living modified organisms and being able to take appropriate response measures	**Item 16:** Unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures **Item 17:** Contained use of living modified organisms

Indicator 1.8.1 *Percentage of Parties having in place measures to manage LMOs in transit*

17. Relevant information on the status of this indicator was obtained from *question 25* of the second national report *"Does your country regulate the transit of LMOs?"*

18. Amongst the respondents, 54% reported that they regulate the transit of LMOs while 46% reported that they do not. Within developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition 57% reported that they do not regulate the transit of LMOs.

Indicator 1.8.2 *Percentage of Parties having in place measures for contained use*

19. *Question 26* of the second national report asking "*Does your country regulate the contained use of LMOs?"* provided information on the status of the implementation of this indicator.

20. Of the respondents to this question, 65% reported that they regulate the contained use of LMOs while the remaining 35% of Parties reported that they do not. Among developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition 44% indicated that they do not regulate the contained use of LMOs.

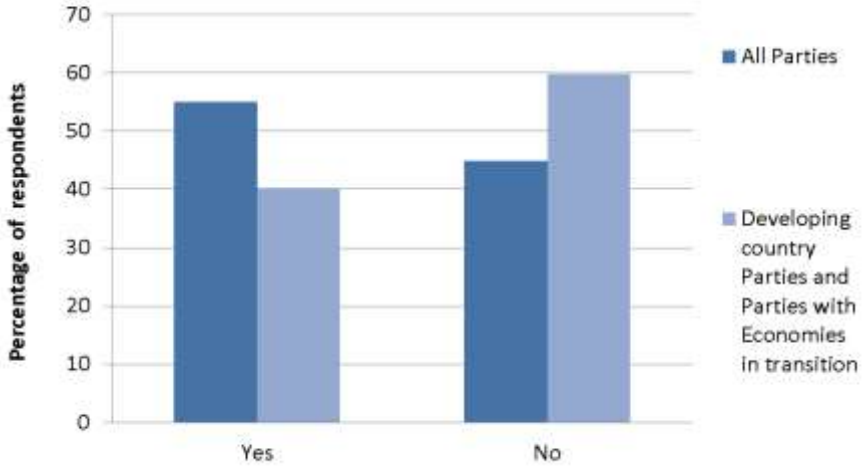
Indicator 1.8.3 *Percentage of Parties using the guidance to detect occurrence of unintentional releases of living modified organisms and being able to take appropriate response measures*

21. Information on the status of the implementation of this indicator was acquired from *question 101* of the second national report and *question 18* of the survey

22. In responding to *question 101*, *"Has your country established a mechanism for addressing emergency measures in case of unintentional transboundary movements of LMOs that are likely to have significant adverse effect on biological diversity?"* 56% of Parties reported that they have established such measures. Within developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition 42% indicated that they have established mechanisms for addressing emergency measures while the remaining 58% do not.

23. Furthermore, in response to *question 18, "Does your country have the capacity to take appropriate measures in the event that an LMO is unintentionally released?"*, 55% of Parties replied with "Yes" to having the appropriate capacity. Similarly, when considering developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition only 40% indicated that they have such capacity while the remaining 60% indicated that they do not, as indicated in figure 2.

Figure 2. Does your country have the capacity to take appropriate measures in the event that an LMO is unintentionally released?



24. In elaborating on their responses through the comments, two Parties listed situations where they have dealt with unintentional releases of LMOs and the measures they followed as a result. The majority of Parties, however, indicated that they do not have the capacity, or have limited capacity to take appropriate measures some of which also indicated the parallel need for the availability of LMO detection laboratories and guidance to facilitate the implementation of such measures.

C. Operational Objective 2.3 (Handling, transport, packaging and identification): to develop capacity for handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms

Table 4. Operational Objective 2.3 of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Outcomes	*Indicators*	*Relevant items of the provisional agenda*
• Customs/border officials are able to enforce the implementation of the Protocol's requirements related to handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms • Personnel are trained and equipped for sampling, detection and identification of LMOs	**2.3.1** Number of customs officers and laboratory personnel trained	**Item 10:** Handling, transport, packaging and identification **Item 16:** Unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures
	2.3.2 Percentage of Parties that have established or have reliable access to detection laboratories	Cross-cutting indicators with particular relevance to: **Item 10:** Handling, transport, packaging and identification **Item 16:** Unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures
	2.3.3 National and regional laboratories certified with the capacity to detect LMOs	
	2.3.4 Number of certified laboratories in operation	

Indicator 2.3.1 *Number of customs officers and laboratory personnel trained*

25. In response to the survey *question 23 "How many customs officers in your country have received training in the identification of LMOs?"* and *question 24 "How many laboratory personnel in your country have received training in detection of LMOs?"*, Parties, and among them developing countries and countries with economies in transition, indicated in figures 3 and 4:

Figure 3. How many customs officers in your country have received training in the identification of LMOs?

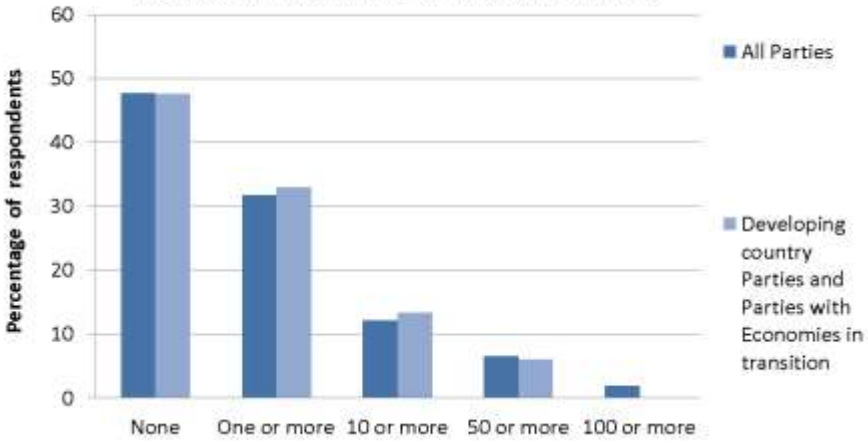
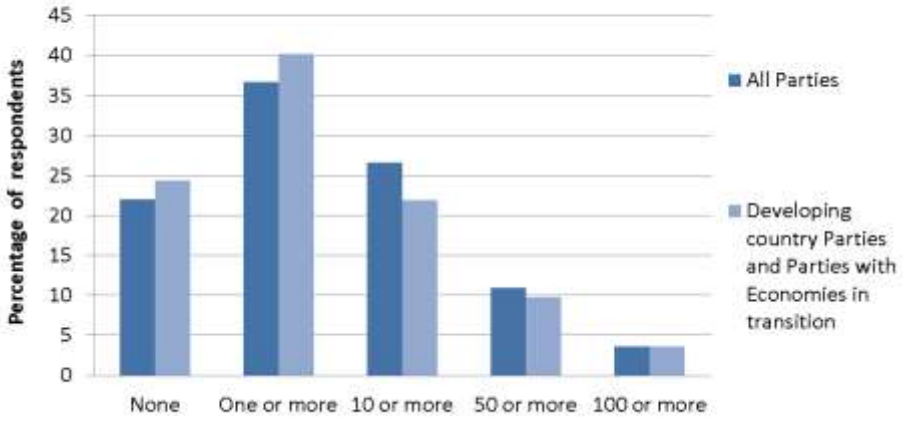


Figure 4. How many laboratory personnel in your country have received training in detection of LMOs?



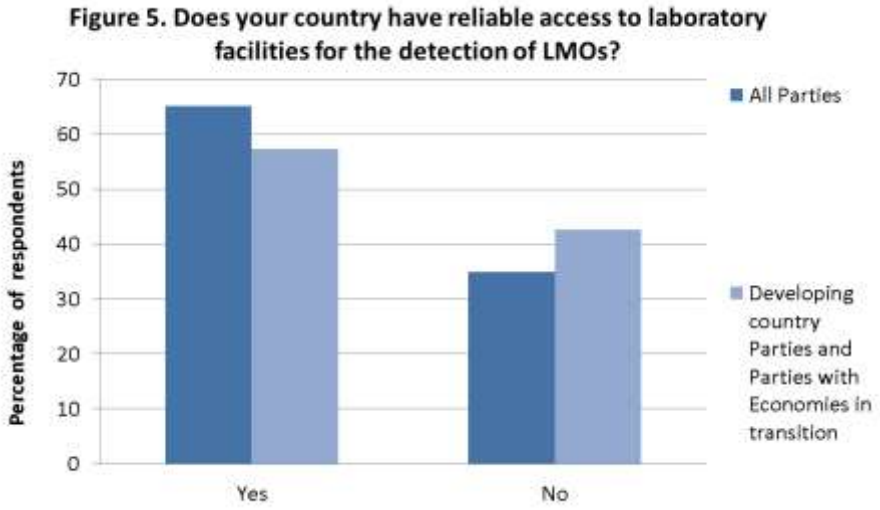
26. From amongst the Parties that provided comments, many reported that some of their customs officers have been trained in LMO labelling and document identification as well as the sampling of shipments for the analytical detection of the presence of LMOs. In some countries, part or all of these procedures were indicated to be carried out by officials from other relevant border control authorities.

27. From within the Parties that commented on the number of trained laboratory personnel in their country, many indicated that their scientific staff has undergone some form of specific training in the detection and identification of LMOs through regional networks of laboratories, such as the Southern Africa Network on GMO Detection Laboratories (SANGL), the National Laboratories Network for Detection, Identification and Quantification of GMO (RNLD-OGM) and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) or through international organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Union, amongst others. Several Parties also indicated that while they do have trained personnel they do not have precise numbers as to how many.

Indicator 2.3.2 *Percentage of Parties that have established or have reliable access to detection laboratories*

28. Data relating to this indicator was gathered through responses to survey *Question 25 "Does your country have reliable access to laboratory facilities for the detection of LMOs?"*.

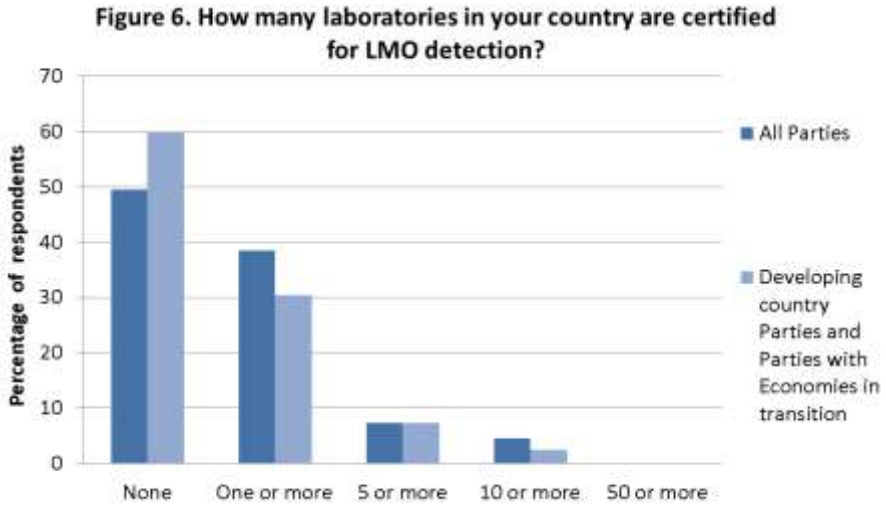
29. In response to this question, and as shown in figure 5, 65% of Parties replied that they do have access to laboratory facilities. Within developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, 57% of Parties answered "Yes" when asked if their country has access to laboratory facilities for the detection of LMOs with the remaining 43% reporting they do not.



30. Of the 43 Parties that provided additional comments to this question, several listed that they have laboratory facilities, either dedicated national laboratories or laboratories that operate through academic and research institutes. The comments further indicated that some countries have access to the necessary laboratory facilities but they are not specifically or exclusively used for LMO detection and identification. In addition some Parties reported that they have established laboratories but do not have the technical or financial support to cover the operating costs of the testing procedures. One Party indicated that it carries out any necessary testing procedures at the facilities of a neighbouring country.

Indicator 2.3.3 *National and regional laboratories certified with the capacity to detect LMOs*

31. In response to *Question 26*, as shown in figure 6, of the survey where Parties were asked "*How many laboratories in your country are certified for LMO detection?"*, 50% indicated that they do not have any certified laboratories, while 39% indicated that they have one or more, 7% have five or more and the remaining 5% of all Parties have 10 or more laboratories that are certified to detect LMOs. Of the developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, 60% indicated that they do not have laboratories that are certified for LMO detection.

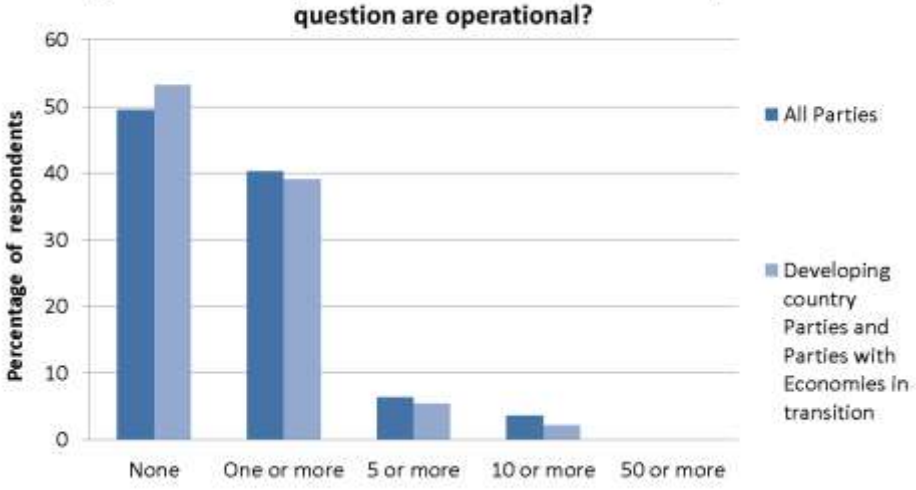


32. In providing further comments to this question, Parties indicated that while they do have operational laboratories that are not necessarily certified or are in the process of being certified. One Party indicated that although several of their national laboratories are not certified they are, however, involved in regular collaborative trials and enforce the necessary quality control measures for ensuring consistent results. Of the Parties that indicated that they do have certified laboratories, most specified that they are accredited.

Indicator 2.3.4 *Number of certified laboratories in operation*

33. Information relevant to this indicator was obtained from *Question 27* of the survey where Parties were asked *"How many of the certified laboratories in the previous question are operational?"*. As indicated in figure 7 below, 50% of all respondents indicated that none of their certified laboratories are operational while 40% indicated that one or more laboratories are operational. Of the developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, 53% indicated that they do not have that are certified laboratories that are operation.

Figure 7. How many of the certified laboratories in the previous question are operational?



34. In their comments to this question, Parties echoed their views from the previous question on the number of laboratories in their country that are certified to detect LMOs. One Party further specified that while their laboratory facilities have to potential to be operational they have not, however, received any requests to analyse samples.

III. CONCLUDING REMARKS

35. Overall there is a stronger level of implementation to meet the objectives of these specific areas of the Strategic Plan amongst developed country Parties than amongst developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition.

36. Data from the second national report indicated that several of Parties have taken steps, at least to some extent, towards putting in place the documentation requirements for LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing, LMOs for contained use and for intentional introduction into the environment, with high levels of implementation for LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment.

37. Furthermore, Parties have similarly reported that they have measures in place to manage and regulate LMOs in transit as well as for the contained use of LMOs.

38. Information from the second national report and the responses to the dedicated survey showed a high level of agreement on the status of the implementation of provisions relating to the indicators on the

unintentional transboundry movements of LMOs. In both cases just over half of Parties indicated that they either have the capacity to take appropriate measures or have a mechanism in place in the event of an unintentional transboundry movement of an LMO.

39. In reporting on the use of technical tools and guidance for the detection and identification of unauthorised and unintentional LMOs, there was no specific mention of guidance that is currently available for use by Parties for this purpose. However, it is noted that progress has been made under the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms towards this operational objective (see report of the Network available as document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/7/INF/9.[2])

40. In relation to their capacity to detect and identify LMOs, a majority of Parties reported that they have access to laboratory facilities, for example through national laboratories or academic institutions amongst others. However, many developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition reported that they do not have any capacity in this field. The apparent discrepancy between the availability of laboratory facilities and the capacity to detect and identify LMOs may be due to situations where appropriate laboratory facilities exist but their operation is cost and sample prohibitive. Some Parties indicated that they have access to laboratories that operate under multidisciplinary scopes which do not yet include LMO detection and identification.

41. While half of the Parties reported that their laboratories are not certified for the detection and identification of LMOs, it appears that some of these laboratories operate to satisfactory quality standards in spite of the lack of certification.

42. Customs officers who are trained in the identification of LMOs are present in most Parties. Some Parties, however, also reported that they have personnel trained in the identification and sampling of LMOs who are located within other national authorities.

43. In summary, Parties are active in implementing provisions relating to handling, transport, packaging and identification; transit; contained use; and unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures with the view to fulfilling the objectives of the Strategic plan. There is, however, room for improvement for more Parties to put appropriate measures in place to fulfil the requirements of the Protocol. Parties have also indicated that they are proactive in seeking further training and guidance, particularly in the area of detection and identification of LMOs including further capacity-building activities in this area.

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[2] Available at http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/bs/mop-07/information/mop-07-inf-09-en.pdf