



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SERVING AS THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY
Montreal, Canada, 23 July 2012

**MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF
THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY HELD IN MONTREAL, CANADA
ON 23 JULY 2012**

INTRODUCTION

1. The third meeting of the Bureau of the fifth meeting of the Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COPMOP-5) was held on 23 July 2012 at the Secretariat, Montreal, Canada. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Masamichi Saigo, representing the President of COPMOP-5.

The following Bureau members attended the meeting:

1. Ms. Snezana Prokic (Serbia) - Member
2. Mr. Ioseb Kartsivadze (Georgia) - Member
3. Mr. Spencer Thomas (Grenada) – Member
4. Mr. Ariel Reynaldo Alvarez Morales (Mexico) – Member
5. Ms. Latifa Lakfifi (Morocco) - Member
6. Ms. Ines Verleye (Belgium) - Member
7. Mr. Andrew Bignell (New Zealand) – Member
8. Dr. Akram Eissa Darwich (Syria) – Member
9. Ms. Kauna Betty Schroder (Namibia) – Member (connected by phone)
10. Mr. Bae Jongin (Republic of Korea), on behalf of Mr. Yeon-chul Yoo - Member

2. The meeting was also attended by Mr. M. F. Farooqui, COPMOP-6 Presidency representative, and Mr. Hiroki Sasaki of the COPMOP-5 Presidency. The Executive Secretary of the Convention, Mr. Bráulio Dias, and Mr. Charles Gbedemah, Biosafety Division of the CBD Secretariat were in attendance.

ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The meeting was declared open at 9.40 a.m. by the President, extending a warm welcome to all members and informed members of the appointment of the new Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, who is the President of the COPMOP 5. He further noted that being the last meeting before the sixth meeting of the COPMOP in Hyderabad, India; he would like to express his appreciation to all the members for their support in helping implement the Cartagena Protocol. He welcomed the Government of India as the next President of the COPMOP.

4. The Executive Secretary welcomed all the members and pledged the continued support of the Secretariat towards the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and its Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress. He further expressed his appreciation to the Bureau for their guidance under the leadership of Government of Japan. He also expressed his appreciation for the high rate of submission of the second national reports (144 out of 163 Parties) by the Parties. Furthermore, the Executive Secretary expressed his gratitude to all donors for their voluntary contribution towards the biosafety programme of work during the biennium particularly the Government of Japan who contributed approximately 1.2 million US dollars towards capacity building in risk assessment and risk management, Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress, public awareness and participation; handling, transport and packaging of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) and the second assessment and review process.

5. The Executive Secretary also highlighted the low contribution of donors towards participation of delegates from developing countries to the sixth meeting of the COPMOP in Hyderabad. He noted that the situation has resulted in the Secretariat being only able to sponsor one delegate per Party for both the Convention and the Protocol to the meetings. The challenge, he stated, is that the delegate may not necessarily be a biosafety expert participating in the COPMOP process.

ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

6. The Bureau then adopted the provisional agenda of the meeting as prepared by the Secretariat, in consultation with the President of the COPMOP, as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Status of the Programme of Work 2011 – 2012
4. Status of the Trust Funds of the Protocol
5. Preparations for COP MOP 6, Hyderabad, India 1 – 5 October 2012
6. Organization and conduct of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP-6)
7. Review of substantive issues to be addressed by COPMOP 6
8. Other matters
9. Closure of the meeting

ITEM 3: STATUS OF THE BIOSAFETY PROGRAMME OF WORK 2011 - 2012

7. The Secretariat introduced the agenda item by presenting a short overview of the activities under the biosafety programme of work of the biennium as presented in document UNEP/CBD/COPMOP/Bur/2012/INF/1. The activities undertaken in the implementation of the Protocol were in the following areas: Biosafety Clearing-house; Risk assessment and risk management; Cooperation with other organization, conventions and initiatives; Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol Liability and Redress; Public awareness, education and participation; Socio-economic considerations; Capacity building; Handling, transport, packaging and identification; Compliance Committee and the assessment and review process.

8. In the follow-up discussions, members expressed their concern about the fact that there seems to be a mix-up, at the national level, in the processes towards the ratification of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. This mix-up seems to impede the ratification of the Supplementary Protocol. The situation is further aggravated, the members noted, by the fact that different sectors of government separately handle the instruments. The members further noted that all efforts must be made by the Secretariat to raise the profile of the Supplementary Protocol and increase its visibility. It was recommended that as much as possible when the Secretariat sends out notifications, the Secretariat must seize the opportunity to create awareness and clear the misunderstanding between the two instruments among Parties. The members of the Bureau further recommended that all activities under the Protocols should be integrated under the Convention so that the latter can be viewed and accepted by all stakeholders in a holistic manner. It was further noted that both the Biosafety Clearing-house and the ABS Clearing-house must be seen as integral parts of the CBD Clearing-house mechanism while still having the technical specification to respond to their treaty obligations.

9. In his response, the Executive Secretary noted that the containment of the Biosafety programme at the initial stages of its development and implementation had some advantages but it is now time to integrate biosafety and all other Protocols into Convention activities in a holistic manner. He further assured members that in his vision for the implementation of the Convention, he has initiated steps to find lasting solutions for the full integration of the Protocols into the Convention activities in order to maximize the use of the scarce resources needed for the implementation of the Convention.

10. It was further noted that the establishment of effective coordination mechanisms at the national level offer the opportunities for Parties to start or strengthen the integration of all Convention activities. It was recommended that the ongoing revision of NBSAPs offers another good opportunity for such integration. It was also noted that such coordination at the national level should not impede the specific negotiation and implementation needs of the instruments. The integrity of the implementation must however be sustained.

ITEM 4: STATUS OF THE TRUST FUNDS OF THE PROTOCOL

11. The Secretariat introduced the agenda item by providing an up-to-date statement on the three Trust Funds of the Protocol. It was noted that while the Trust Fund for the Core Programme Budget for the Biosafety Programme had no significant challenges, those of the Additional Voluntary Contributions in Support of Approved Activities and the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating Participation of Parties in Meetings of the COPMOP have significant shortfalls. The former had contributions to only 32% of the expected budget while the latter had only 15.3%. The result of the shortfall of the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Facilitating Participation of Parties in Meetings of the COPMOP is the lack of direct sponsorship for delegates to the COPMOP in Hyderabad, India.

12. The Executive Secretary at this juncture informed the members that due to the low level of contribution, the Secretariat is only able to support one airfare ticket and 3-week DSA per eligible Party to both the COP and the COPMOP. At this juncture, the member from New Zealand announced that his government was making a voluntary of US\$ 35,000 towards participants to the COP and the COPMOP.¹

ITEM 5: PREPARATIONS FOR COPMOP-6, HYDERABAD, INDIA 1 – 5 OCTOBER 2012

13. The representative of the COPMOP-6 Presidency, Mr. M. F. Farooqui, briefed the Bureau on the status of preparations towards the COP and the COPMOP. He noted that arrangements at the Hyderabad International Exhibition Centre (HICC) for the meetings and the Hyderabad International Trade Expositions (HITEX) for the exhibitions and cafeteria were on schedule towards hosting both the COPMOP-6 and COP-11. He further noted that a website, which serves as a one point contact for information on the meetings, has been made available to the public with useful information for delegates including the booking of hotels. The website, as at the time of holding the Bureau meeting, has had 10,300 hits.

14. The COPMOP-6 Presidency representative also informed the meeting that hospitality desks will be installed both at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad and the conference centre. There will also be other facilities such as foreign exchange bureau, first aid amenities and security in collaboration with the UN, among others. Some of the other amenities being made available include signs and dedicated bus routes. He further announced that 2,050 rooms have been blocked through the P.C.O. to help facilitate access to accommodation by the delegates. In addition, the delegates can freely and directly access the hotels through the website to book their rooms.

15. The meeting was also informed that the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests has also hired a unique train with 13 coaches to travel through 55 stations across the country to create awareness on biodiversity. The train journey, he noted, has begun its journey after an inauguration ceremony by the Minister of Environment and Forests and the Chief Minister of Delhi. The train will be stationed at Hyderabad during the COP meeting. Mr. Farooqui also noted that there will be a tree planting exercise at the site proposed for National Museum on Bio Diversity in Hyderabad, where each country to the COP will plant a tree.

16. The COPMOP-6 representative announced that the Government of India has provided one million dollars to support the participation of Ministers of Environment from least developed country in the high level segment of the COP.

17. On the question of security, Mr. Farooqui assured members that arrangements are fully in place for the safe running of the meetings. On a further question on the availability of conference buses outside meeting hours, the COPMOP-6 Presidency representative assured members that whenever meetings are extended during the COPMOP, buses will be made available.

ITEM 6: ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY (COPMOP-6)

18. The Secretariat introduced the draft revised annotations for COPMOP-6, which gave current information on the conduct of the meeting working in Plenary and two Working Groups. The Secretariat further noted that some consultations have been made as regards the officers to chair the meetings. It was proposed that Ms. Ines Verleye (Belgium) and Mr. Spencer Thomas (Grenada) chair Working Group I and Working Group II, respectively, while Ms. Kauna Betty Schroder (Namibia) acts as the rapporteur of the meeting. Amb. Conrod Hunte (Antigua and Barbuda) was proposed as

¹ The member from the Republic of Korea also made a similar pledge at the COP Bureau meeting held on 23-24 July 2012.

the Chair of the Contact Group on Budget. The Bureau unanimously approved the recommendation of the officers to chair the meetings for the COPMOP-6.

19. On the question of early issuance of visa facilitation letters to participants, the Bureau was assured that the letters will be issued early to enable delegates get their visas in time for their travels to COPMOP-6.

ITEM 7: REVIEW OF SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY COPMOP-6

20. The Secretariat presented details of all the agenda items for the COPMOP 6 and noted that on substantive issues arising from the programme of work and previous decisions, the agenda item on Risk Assessment and Risk Management where Parties will take decisions on the revised version of the “Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms” will play a prominent role during the COPMOP 6. The next prominent agenda item will be the one on the second assessment and review of effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol, followed by the agenda item on socio-economic considerations. A member noted that he hopes that the Parties will address conclusively the agenda item on handling, transport, packaging and identification requirements for LMOs as the issue remains a practical one that is key to the implementation of the Protocol.

21. A member noted that there is a need to release the budget substantive document early to enable Parties consult within their regional groups. The Secretariat confirmed that all documents will be available by the 6 weeks deadline before COP/MOP6.

ITEM 8: OTHER MATTERS

22. A member of the Bureau noted that the sponsorship of a single delegate from developing countries and countries with economies in transition to back-to-back meetings poses a challenge to the single delegate countries both for effective participation and discussions on technical issues. This challenge, it was noted, should be addressed urgently.

ITEM 9: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

23. At the end of the proceedings, the President expressed his appreciation to members for their cooperation and closed the meeting at 11.40 a.m.
