



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD//COP-MOP6/Bur/2013/1/ 2
3 June 2013

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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

Trondheim, 31 May 2013

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY HELD IN TRONDHEIM, NORWAY ON 31 MAY 2013

INTRODUCTION

1. The first meeting of the Bureau of the sixth meeting of the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 6) was held on 31 May 2013 at the Directorate for Nature Management of the Government of Norway, in Trondheim, Norway. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Hem Pande (India), representing the President of COP-MOP 6.

The following Bureau members attended the meeting:

1. Ms. Maria Luisa del Rio Mispireta (Peru) - Member
2. Mr. Spencer Thomas (Grenada) – Member
3. Mr. Ioseb Kartsivadze (Georgia) – Member
4. Ms. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) - Member
5. Mr. Francis Ogwal (Uganda) – Member
6. Ms. Chaweewan Hutacharern (Thailand) - Member
7. Ms. Eleni Marama Tokaduadua (Fiji) - Member
8. Mr. Jeremy Eppel (United Kingdom) – Member
9. Ms. Tone Solhaug (Norway) – Member

Absent with apologies: Mr. Boukar Attari (Niger) – Member

2. The meeting was also attended by the following representative of the Presidency: Ms. Sujata Arora, Director, Ministry of Environment and Forests. Representatives of the host country of the COP-MOP 7/COP 12, Mr. Yeon Chul Yoo, Ms. Koo Meehyun and Ms. Lee Jung-Lock, attended as *ex officio* members of the Bureau.

3. The Secretariat was represented by Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention, Mr. Olivier Jalbert, Principal Officer, and Mr. Charles Gbedemah, Principal Officer. Mr. Carlos Martin-Novella, Senior Advisor, UNEP Division for Environmental Law and Conventions, represented the Executive Director of UNEP.

ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

2. The meeting was declared open at 3.05 p.m. by Mr. Hem Pande, on behalf of the President of COP-MOP 6, Her Excellency Ms. Jayanthi Natarajan, Minister of Environment and Forests of the Government of India. Mr. Pande extended a warm welcome to all members and after short individual

introductions by all present, Mr. Pande expressed his gratitude to the Government of Norway for hosting the first meeting of the Bureau of COP-MOP 6.

3. Further, Mr. Pande noted that he is confident that quality progress would be made in the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol in the run-up to COP-MOP 7 with the vast and diverse experience of members. He noted with appreciation the current on-going discussions of the online groups on risk assessment and risk management, and on socio-economic considerations in decision-making. He also informed members that the Government of India successfully hosted capacity-building workshops on the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing and Traditional Knowledge; and the Nagoya-Kuala-Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress for Africa participants in Bangalore, India, from 11 to 13 February 2013.

4. He further informed the Bureau that India has offered to host a Panel discussion/workshop on the achievements of the Protocol and the way forward to mark the tenth anniversary celebrations of the Protocol back-to-back with any biosafety event in November 2013. India has also offered to host the following inter-sessional meetings under the Biosafety Protocol: Asia Sub-regional workshop on strategic approaches to capacity-building for the effective implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, November, 2013; Workshop for the heads of laboratories involved in the detection of living modified organisms to exchange information and experience on the implementation of relevant standards, January 2014; and Asia sub-regional training course on risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms within the framework of Biosafety Protocol, April 2014.

5. In his opening remarks, the Executive Secretary welcomed all the members and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Norway for hosting both the COP and COP-MOP Bureaux meetings. He also congratulated the Government of Norway for holding a successful Seventh Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity, 27-31 May 2013. The Executive Secretary also expressed his appreciation to the Government of India for its offer to host some inter-sessional activities. He further thanked the Government of the Republic of Korea for offering to host the COP and COP-MOP meetings in October 2014.

6. As highlights of the outcome of the meeting of the Friends of the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at the Chateau de Bossey, in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland, 11-12 February 2013, the Executive Secretary noted that the meeting, which was organized in a non-negotiation mode, brought out many new ideas on and approaches to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. With regard to Biosafety, he noted that biosafety should be seen as part and parcel of the biodiversity agenda at all levels of implementation of the Convention. He further noted that the Friends were also of the opinion that the meetings of the Parties should offer opportunities for discussions on the experiences and challenges of Parties in the implementation of the Protocol. In this regard, the Executive Secretary noted that he has proposed that a Forum be held, as part of the proceedings of the COP-MOP 7. He stated that, as indicated in the Provisional Agenda of the COP-MOP 7, the Forum session would be organized as a platform where there would be exchange of experiences and challenges in the implementation of the Protocol focusing on the integration of biosafety into national development plans and programmes.

7. The Executive Secretary also informed the Bureau that he has introduced a re-structuring process at the Secretariat with the formation of a new unit for mainstreaming, partnerships and outreach, and another to be solely responsible for the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. He noted that personnel from the former unit for social economic and legal issues have been integrated in other units. He also stated that the Biosafety unit remains unchanged. He further noted that he has established task forces at the Secretariat with the main aim of delivering better support to Parties. Among them is one on capacity-building, which will work with partners to support the capacity-building efforts of Parties.

8. In concluding his opening remarks, the Executive Secretary noted that his major concern currently with regard to the Biosafety Protocol is the low level of voluntary contributions towards the implementation of the Biosafety programme of work.

ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

9. The Bureau then adopted the provisional agenda of the meeting as prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the President of the COP-MOP, as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Activities of the Biosafety Programme of Work 2013 – 2014, subject to availability of funds
- 4: 10th Anniversary of the coming into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, 11 September 2013
5. Proposed Provisional Agenda for the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties, Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 29 September – 3 October 2014
6. Date and venue for scheduled bureau meeting(s) in 2013
7. Other matters
8. Closure of the meeting

ITEM 3: ACTIVITIES OF BIOSAFETY PROGRAMME OF WORK 2013 – 2014, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

10. The Secretariat introduced the agenda item by presenting a short overview of the major activities under the Biosafety programme of work of the biennium. The activities highlighted were Risk assessment and risk management (Decision BS-VI/12); Socio-economic Considerations (Decision BS-VI/13) and the hiring of a consultant to develop a sound methodological approach for the third assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol (Decision BS-VI/15).

11. The Secretariat presented an update on the work of the Open-ended Online Forum and the AHTEG on risk assessment and risk management. Both the Forum and the AHTEG have completed their first tasks of providing input on the tools to structure and focus the process of testing the Guidance on Risk Assessment. The Secretariat noted that even though these activities have all been online, they have been very successful with the posting of 405 interventions between December 2012 to April 2013 and the participation of 211 experts from Parties, 21 from Non-Parties and 82 Observers.

12. The Secretariat, however noted that the COP-MOP had mandated the AHTEG to have one face-to-face meeting. This meeting is scheduled for May 2014 to finalize the recommendations regarding the development of a package that aligns the Guidance with the training manual and the development of guidance on new topics of risk assessment and risk management to COP-MOP 7. The Secretariat further noted that the face-to-face meeting even though very key to the process, is subject to availability of funds but has not as yet received any voluntary contributions to date.

13. The Secretariat also presented an update on the activities of the socio-economic considerations process in which Parties, other Government and organizations have nominated participants to online discussion groups and real-time conferences to advance the process that aims at providing conceptual clarity on socio-economic considerations in decision-making. There are currently 113 participants who have posted 289 interventions in the discussion group. The Secretariat further noted that the COP-MOP has also established an AHTEG on socio-economic considerations to deliberate on the final input to the COP-MOP. The AHTEG members would later be selected from among the participants in the discussion groups. The Bureau was also informed that the meetings of the AHTEG

on socio-economic considerations are subject to the availability of funds and to date the Secretariat has received a voluntary contribution of \$35,000 from the Government of Norway. The Government of Bolivia has also offered to host the first meeting scheduled for October 2013 and the Republic of Korea offered to host the second meeting in June 2014. It was also noted that the COP-MOP established an AHTEG to comprise of a minimum of five members per region and a maximum of eight per region. The financial requirement for the minimum participation is estimated at \$130,000 for the travel and daily subsistence and \$210,000 for the maximum number of participation.

14. On the hiring of a consultant to develop a sound methodological approach for the third assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol, the Bureau was informed that the activity, which is subject to availability of funds and budgeted at \$20,000, has also not received any voluntary contributions to date.

15. After some deliberations, the Bureau recommended that the Secretariat renews its appeal to donors to contribute towards these activities. The representative of UNEP informed the Bureau that he would explore the possibility of UNEP support for the hiring of a consultant to develop a sound methodological approach for the third assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol.

ITEM 4: 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMING INTO FORCE OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2013

16. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that, in preparation for the tenth anniversary of the coming into force of the Cartagena Protocol on 11 September 2013 with the theme “10 years of promoting safety in the use of biotechnology”, the Secretariat has proposed a number of activities, including a video clip from a geographically balanced group of personalities that have been actively following the development of the Protocol which includes short clips from the COP MOP President, the UNEP Executive Director and the CBD Executive Secretary. The video will be placed on the BCH and also mailed to all CBD and Cartagena Protocol national focal points as material for creating awareness about the Protocol worldwide.

17. It is proposed to also publish a special issue of the Biosafety Newsletter and hold a Panel discussion that the Government of India has offered to host.

18. It was suggested that the awareness outreach activities of the Cartagena Protocol and its Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol could be integrated into the celebrations of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity in order to link biosafety to the broader Convention agenda and the Aichi targets. It was noted that the activities could be well-managed to help increase the number of ratifications to the Cartagena Protocol from its current state of 166 and the early coming into force of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress. It was further suggested that the Secretariat could explore the possibility of organizing a briefing session in New York at the margins of any major meetings of the United Nations.

ITEM 5: PROPOSED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF PARTIES, PYEONGCHANG, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, 29 SEPTEMBER TO 3 OCTOBER 2014

19. The Secretariat introduced the proposed Provisional Agenda for the seventh meeting of the COP-MOP in the Republic of Korea and noted that the agenda has been prepared based mainly on the programme of work of the COP-MOP for the period 2012-2016 (decision BS-V/16 Annex II). Further, the Secretariat noted that a proposal has been made to organize a Forum in plenary during the afternoon session of the first day of the COP-MOP. The Forum is expected to create a platform for the exchange of experiences and challenges in the implementation of the Protocol focusing on the integration of biosafety into national development plans and programmes.

20. The Bureau welcomed the proposed Provisional Agenda with the change of title of “Standing items/Reports” to read “Reports” and that of “Rolling Items” to read “Substantive Items”. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to present to it a concept note at its next meeting that provides the rationale, justification and structure of the Forum. The concept note is expected to help the Bureau provide an input into the organization of the Forum to ensure a productive session. The Bureau also noted that the Forum needs to be planned with the aim to facilitate implementation.

21. The Bureau also requested that the Secretariat presents to it, at its next meeting, a proposed organization of work for the COP-MOP 7. This, the Bureau noted, will help clarify the workload of the COP-MOP to ensure that negotiation time is not lost unduly.

ITEM 6: DATE AND VENUE FOR SCHEDULED BUREAU MEETING(S) IN 2013

22. The Bureau agreed that its next meeting will be held on the 6 October 2013, at the margins of the eighth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8 (j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

ITEM 7: OTHER MATTERS

23. In response to a member’s enquiry, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that the BCH is currently fully functional as an information sharing system for the Cartagena Protocol. The BCH also has an innovative facility for organizing online discussion groups and conferences. Its main challenge is however the low but growing input of data from Parties. To another question regarding training workshops on risk assessment and risk management, members were informed that the Secretariat is preparing online modules in risk assessment and risk management in line with the Guidance on Risk Assessment to facilitate the training at the national level in the absence of funds for holding face-to-face meetings.

ITEM 8: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

24. At the end of the proceedings, the representative of the COP-MOP 6 President expressed his appreciation to members for their cooperation and closed the meeting at 6.15 p.m.
