



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP-MOP6/Bur/2013/2/2
7 October 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

Montreal, 6 October 2013

MINUTES OF THE SECOND 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

INTRODUCTION

1. The second 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 6 October 2013 at the Secretariat of the CBD, located at 413 St-Jacques Street West, Suite 800, Montreal, Canada. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Hem Pande (India), Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests of India, representing the President of sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (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. Ms. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) - Member
4. Mr. Francis Ogwal (Uganda) – Member
5. Mr. Boukar Attari (Niger) – Member
6. Ms. Chaweewan Hutacharn (Thailand) - Member
7. Ms. Tone Solhaug (Norway) – Member
8. Mr. Jeremy Eppel (United Kingdom) – Member

Absent with apologies:

- Ms. Eleni Marama Tokaduadua (Fiji) - Member
- Mr. Ioseb Kartsivadze (Georgia) – 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. Ho Min Jang, Director, Mr. Gi Cheol Kim, Policy Team Manager, Korea Biosafety Clearing House 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 and Mr. Charles Gbedemah, Biosafety Division (SCBD). 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

4. The meeting was declared open at 1.40 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. He then highlighted the various activities that India undertook to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Cartagena Protocol including a South Asia biosafety conference and two other workshops. After his introductory remarks, Mr. Pande invited the Executive Secretary to make opening remarks.
5. The Executive Secretary welcomed all members and highlighted his recent visit to the Republic of Korea, the host of COP-MOP 7/COP 12. He noted that while in Korea, he was shown around the meeting venue so as to be apprised of the preparations towards the meetings in October 2014. He noted that preparations are underway towards hosting both meetings and further stated that he was impressed with the interest and commitment of the host government and assured the Bureau that all preparations are on schedule. He reiterated his proposal towards organizing a special session on implementation as an integral part of the COP-MOP to enable Parties to dialogue and exchange experience on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol.
6. In concluding, the Executive Secretary again noted that his major concern with regards to the Biosafety Protocol is the low level of voluntary contributions towards the implementation of the approved Biosafety programme of work. He appealed to members to help find innovative ways to improve the situation.

ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. 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. Update on the Biosafety Programme of Work 2013 – 2014
 4. 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
 5. Report on the contributions to the Trust Funds of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
 6. Other matters
 7. Closure of the meeting

ITEM 3: UPDATE ON THE BIOSAFETY PROGRAMME OF WORK 2013 – 2014

8. The Secretariat introduced the agenda item by presenting a short overview of the major activities under the Biosafety programme of work. The activities highlighted were: the 10th anniversary celebrations, status of ratifications of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress (Decision BS-VI/11), 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).

9. On the tenth anniversary of the coming into force of the Cartagena Protocol on 11 September 2013, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that a short video containing a series of clips from representatives of Parties and relevant organizations was produced at the Secretariat and distributed to the Parties for use as public awareness material on the Protocol. The video highlighted some of the successes and lessons learned with regards to implementation issues such as capacity-building, risk assessment and risk management, socio-economic considerations, biosafety clearing-house, public awareness and participation, handling, transport and identification, and the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol. An anniversary Biosafety Newsletter was also produced and distributed to the Parties. It was noted that a compilation of all national level activities with regards to the celebration is in progress and to date, 21 Parties and relevant organizations have sent reports to the Secretariat on their events marking the celebration.
10. The Secretariat also provided an update on the status of ratifications of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress. The Bureau was informed that to date there are 19 ratifications/accessions, globally distributed as follows: Africa (2); Asia-Pacific (3); Central and Eastern Europe (6); Latin America and the Caribbean (1) and WEOG (7).
11. On the programme of work on risk assessment and risk management, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that all planned activities are progressing on schedule. These activities will culminate in a face-to-face meeting of the AHTEG, 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 AHTEG meeting is scheduled to take place in June 2014. The Bureau was further informed that the Government of Germany has pledged to fund and host the meeting in Bonn, Germany.
12. The Secretariat presented an update on the activities of the socio-economic considerations and brought to the attention of the Bureau that despite the financial contribution of the Government of Norway, and the in-kind support of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the first meeting of the AHTEG, planned for October 2013, could not take place due to the lack of adequate financial resources. The second meeting of the AHTEG on socio-economic considerations planned for the first quarter of 2014 had already received an offer from the Republic of Korea.
13. After deliberations among the members of the Bureau, it was decided that in view of the fact that the first meeting cannot take place, Parties should be provided with the synthesis of the information collected through the online discussions and by the consultant. This will enable the Parties to provide their input for possible online discussions prior to the AHTEG meeting to be held in Korea. The Secretariat was requested to initiate discussions with the Republic of Korea on the possibility of extending the AHTEG meeting by one day should the need arise for discussing issues that might be difficult to resolve within the 5-day meeting. The Secretariat would inform Bolivia of this decision and thanks the government for its kind offer.
14. The Secretariat also informed the Bureau that it has not, to date, received any voluntary contributions towards the hiring of a consultant to develop a sound methodological approach for the third assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol.
15. After some deliberations on the lack of voluntary contributions for the programme of work of the Cartagena Protocol, the Executive Secretary reminded the Bureau members that Parties may need to adopt only decisions that have direct pledges made during the COP-MOP.
16. The Secretariat also informed members that, as part of the process to facilitate the integration of biosafety into the processes under the Convention, a special attention will be made to the issue of biosafety during the Global Workshop on Reviewing Progress and Building Capacity for the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) Revision Process that will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, in November 2013. The Executive Secretary further noted that a notification

will soon be dispatched to all Parties to draw their attention to biosafety when updating their NBSAPs.

17. It was also noted that the issue of integrating biosafety into the Convention needs to be fully addressed as part of the process under decision COP XI/10, which requested the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau, to prepare a proposal on improving the efficiency of structures and processes under the Convention and its two Protocols, including the periodicity of meetings until 2020, the organization of intersessional work, and the organization of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the two Protocols, for consideration by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention at its fifth meeting.

ITEM 4: PROPOSED PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL, PYEONGCHANG, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, 29 SEPTEMBER – 3 OCTOBER 2014

18. The Secretariat introduced the concept note on the convening of a special session on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol during COP-MOP 7. The special session is planned for the afternoon of the first day, Monday of COP-MOP 7. The members of the Bureau requested a further modification of the concept note to identify main output of the special session and its bearing on the COPMOP 7.
19. The Secretariat was also requested by a member of the Bureau to furnish members with the background to the inclusion of Item 17 on contained use of LMOs in the provisional agenda of COP-MOP 7 for the consideration of the Bureau.
20. After further deliberations, it was agreed that a revised concept note on the special session, as well as a revised proposed organization of the work of COP-MOP 7, be circulated to the Bureau in two weeks for comments and if necessary a teleconference could be convened to finalize the agenda.

ITEM 5: REPORT ON THE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE TRUST FUNDS OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

21. The Secretariat presented a brief report on the contributions to the trust fund.

ITEM 6: OTHER MATTERS

22. The representative of the Republic of Korea made a brief statement, in his capacity as representative of the host country of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, on preparations towards COP-MOP 7.

ITEM 7: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

23. 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 3.40 p.m.
