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6 June 2002

NOTIFICATION TO ORGANIZATIONS

Recommendations from the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP) requesting action from relevant organizations

Madam/Sir,

During its third meeting held from 22 to 26 April 2002 in The Hague, The Netherlands, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP) adopted a number of recommendations requesting action from organizations on a number of issues that were for consideration by the meeting.

Please find attached herewith a summary of requests and recommendations of relevance to your organization for each of them. Kindly note that the full report of the third meeting of ICCP (document UNEP/CBD/ICCP/3/10) is available on the website of the Secretariat at <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.asp?wg=ICCP-03>

In order to allow the Secretariat to report to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, I would appreciate it if you could keep us updated on the actions undertaken by your organization for the implementation of the relevant recommendations, and if you could forward to our Secretariat, views on issues addressed by the ICCP that are of relevance to your organization, at the earliest opportunity but no later than 5 months before the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

I also take this opportunity to thank you again for the support your organization has provided so far to the work of the ICCP and I look forward to our continued cooperation.

Accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: Relevant Organizations

Enclosure



ATTACHMENT

ACTION TO BE TAKEN INTER-SESSIONALLY BY ORGANIZATIONS

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Item 4.1.1: Liability and redress

1. *Invites* Parties, Governments and relevant international organizations that had not provided the Executive Secretary with information on national, regional and international agreements in the field of liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movements of living modified organisms before the third meeting of the ICCP, to do so no later than six months before the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;

3. *Invites* Parties, Governments and relevant international organizations to submit, on a voluntary basis, to the Executive Secretary information or initial understandings on the basis of the questionnaire annexed to this recommendation no later than six months prior to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, with a view to assisting Parties to develop understandings on issues relating to liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movements of living modified organisms;

Item 4.1.3: Information-sharing

2. *Welcomes* the response from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to the Executive Secretary's request for views and proposals on unique identification systems, *takes note* of the adoption by the OECD of the Guidance for the Designation of a Unique Identifier for Transgenic Plants as a key to accessing in OECD product database and interoperable systems for the products of modern biotechnology which have been approved for commercial application, and *recommends* that OECD product database establish interoperability with the pilot phase of the Biosafety Clearing-House, incorporating the use of the OECD unique identifiers for transgenic plants, as appropriate and as they become available, and to further elaborate on its applicability for the Cartagena Protocol and to report on this to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to invite relevant national and international organizations to provide views on the development of unique identification systems for classes of living modified organisms and their harmonization, that may be applicable to the Biosafety Clearing-House for inclusion in a synthesis report for consideration by the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;

7. *Welcomes* the efforts made by relevant intergovernmental organizations, including the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, in making the pilot phase a valuable tool for the retrieval of official information, particularly in the area of risk assessment, with a view to facilitating decision-making and assisting countries in building capacity.

Item 4.1.4: Capacity-building (Roster of Experts)

8. *Urges* Governments and other donors to make contributions to the pilot phase of the voluntary fund (to facilitate the use of the roster of experts by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, Parties to the Protocol).

Item 4.1.4: Capacity-building (Article 22 and Article 28, paragraph 3)

3. *Invites* developed country Parties and other donors to make voluntary financial contributions to the Secretariat to facilitate implementation of the Coordination Mechanism;

4. *Urges* Parties, Governments and relevant organizations to register information on their biosafety capacity-building initiatives in the Biosafety Clearing-House, including reports on the achievements, lessons learned and opportunities for cooperation;

5. *Invites* Parties, Governments and relevant organizations to address the gaps in implementation of the priority elements of the Action Plan and the geographic coverage of the capacity-building initiatives identified by the Executive Secretary, taking into account the indicative list of the roles of different entities in supporting capacity-building contained in annex II to the present recommendation;

6. *Requests* developed country Parties, donors and relevant organisations to provide assistance to developing countries, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, to organize workshops on capacity-building;

7. *Encourages* Parties, Governments and organizations to use, as appropriate, the relevant implementation tool kit contained in annex III to the present recommendation;

9. *Takes note* of the preliminary set of indicators for monitoring implementation of the Action Plan, contained in annex IV to this recommendation; *invites* Parties, Governments, and relevant organizations to submit their views and comments to the Executive Secretary no later than three months prior to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol; and *requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare, on the basis of these submissions, a revised set of indicators for consideration by that meeting;

Item 4.1.7: Consideration of other issues for the effective implementation of the Protocol (e.g. Article 29, paragraph 4)

10. *Invites also* other Governments and international governmental organizations to share relevant information in this regard on operational experience regarding a need for criteria for categorization of LMOs according to their intended use.