



# Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIODIVERSITY  
PROTECT BIODIVERSITY IN DRYLANDS

**22 May**  
2006



ACHIEVING THE 2010 TARGET!

Ref.: SCBD/BS/WDY/jh/55077

12 June 2006

## NOTIFICATION

**Actions requested or invited by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Biosafety Protocol (COP-MOP/3) as regards handling, packaging, transport and identification of living modified organisms (paragraphs 2(b) and 2(c) and paragraph 3 of Article 18)**

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to forward to you a copy of decisions BS-III/8 and BS-III/9 on paragraphs 2(b) and 2(c) of Article 18, and paragraph 3 of Article 18, respectively, which were adopted by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP/3) held from 13 to 17 March 2006 in Curitiba, Brazil. A copy of the full report of the meeting is available on the website of the CBD Secretariat at <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=MOP-03>.

I would like, in particular, to draw your attention to those parts of the decisions where organizations are invited to provide views and/or information for synthesis by the Secretariat and subsequent submission to the fourth meeting of COP-MOP for its consideration.

COP-MOP/3 has: (i) invited relevant international organizations to submit further information on experience gained with the use of existing documents accompanying transboundary movements of living modified organisms for contained use and those for intentional introduction into the environment (paragraphs 2(b) and 2(c) of Article 18); and (ii) invited relevant international organizations to submit views and information on the adequacy of or gaps that may exist in existing rules and standards for identification, handling, packaging and transport of goods and substances from the perspective of addressing concerns relating to living modified organisms that are subject to transboundary movement (paragraph 3, Article 18).

I would, therefore, like to invite you to submit your views and information on the above items to the Secretariat at your earliest convenience, but **no later than 14 December 2007**, in order to enable us to prepare synthesis reports of the views and information for consideration by the fourth meeting of COP-MOP .

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your support to the work of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and look forward to our continued cooperation.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif  
Executive Secretary

To: Relevant organizations



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***BS-III/8. Handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms: paragraphs 2 (b) and 2 (c) of Article 18***

*The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,*

*Recalling* the decision taken at the second meeting to consider the documentation requirements of paragraphs 2 (b) and 2 (c) of Article 18 in the context of the review of implementation of the Protocol as provided for under Article 35 (paragraph 4, decision BS-II/10),

*Noting* the existence of well established rules and practices for identification, packaging and transport such as the United Nations Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods in respect of some classes or types of living modified organisms that meet the criteria of dangerous goods or substances, and which fall under the category of living modified organisms destined for contained use,

*Noting* the submissions of information made on experience gained with the use of a commercial invoice or other documents required or utilized by existing documentation systems in fulfilling the requirements under paragraphs 2 (b) and 2 (c) of Article 18 concerning the identification of living modified organisms destined for contained use and those intended for intentional introduction into the environment, respectively,

*Noting further* the limited number of submissions received on experience in the use of existing documentation systems on whether a stand alone document would be appropriate to fulfil the documentation requirements under paragraphs 2 (b) and 2 (c) of Article 18, and *recognizing* the need for more practical experience in the use of documents referred to in paragraph 1, of decision BS-I/6 B,

*Recognizing further* the right of Parties to take domestic measures requiring exporters of living modified organisms destined for contained use and those intended for intentional introduction into the environment, to use standard formats, stand-alone documents, templates or other documentation systems that may be required by national authorities,

1. *Requests* Parties and *invites* other Governments and relevant international organizations to submit to the Executive Secretary, not later than six months prior to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, further information on experience gained with the use of a commercial invoice or other documents required or utilized by existing documentation systems, or pursuant to national requirements with a view to future consideration of a stand-alone document;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile the information received as per paragraph 1 above and to prepare a synthesis report for consideration in the context of the process of review of the implementation of the Protocol as provided for under Article 35 of the Protocol.

***BS-III/9. Handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms: paragraph 3 of Article 18***

*The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,*

*Recalling* paragraph 3 of Article 18 of the Protocol on the consideration of the need for and modalities of developing standards with regard to identification, handling, packaging and transport practices for transboundary movements of living modified organisms,

*Noting* paragraph 2 of Article 18 provides for rules and standards regarding identification of living modified organisms,

*Recognizing*, in light of the complexity of existing rules and standards, and the relevant work of various international bodies, that there is a need for further consultations regarding consideration of the need for and modalities of developing standards with regard to identification, handling, packaging and transport practices, with a view to creating synergies and avoiding duplication of efforts,

1. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations to submit, no later than six months prior to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, views and information on: (i) the adequacy of existing rules and standards for identification, handling, packaging and transport of goods and substances to address concerns relating to living modified organisms that are subject to transboundary movement, and (ii) on gaps that may exist that may justify a need to develop new rules and standards, or to call upon relevant international bodies to modify or expand their existing rules and standards, as appropriate;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare a synthesis of the views and information referred to in paragraph 1 above for consideration at the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;

3. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to continue collaborating with relevant international bodies and to gather information on existing rules and standards with a view to making available the information, including on the experiences of relevant international bodies in the establishment and implementation of rules and standards relevant to Article 18, at the fourth and fifth meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol