



Press Brief Protocol on Biosafety

Assessment and Review

Background

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP) is required to undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including an assessment of its procedures and annexes, at least every five years.

What has been done?

At its fourth meeting, the COP-MOP conducted the first evaluation of the effectiveness of the Protocol. Based on the analysis of the first national reports and the responses of Parties to a questionnaire, it was noted that there was limited experience gained by Parties in the implementation of the Protocol. The COP-MOP thus recognised that the lack of operational experience did not provide a good basis for effective assessment and review of the Protocol.

At the fifth meeting, the COP-MOP decided that the scope of the second assessment and review would primarily focus on evaluating the status of implementation of core elements of the Protocol, and that the evaluation be based on information gathered through the second national reports and other sources. The Secretariat was requested to collect and compile information on the implementation of the Protocol and commission the analysis of the information with a view to facilitating the second assessment and review its effectiveness. The COP-MOP also established a regionally balanced expert group to review the analysis of information.

Parties also adopted a Strategic Plan of the Protocol (2011–2020) and decided, among other things, that the third assessment and review take place in conjunction with the midterm review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan at COP-MOP 8, using, among other things, information collected through the third national reports.

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At their sixth meeting, Parties stressed the need to undertake activities to enable it to initiate the processes for the third assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol and for the mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan for the Protocol. Parties further requested the Secretariat to commission a consultant to develop a sound methodological approach for the third assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol, focusing primarily on the effectiveness of its institutional processes, annexes, procedures and mechanisms, provide Parties with the opportunity to submit views on the methodological approach developed and submit a proposal for consideration at its seventh meeting.

What news to expect in Pyeongchang?

The COP-MOP is expected to:

- Adopt a process towards a sound methodological approach for the third assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol and for the mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan for the Protocol, including establish an expert group on the Strategic Plan to undertake the assessment and review and the mid-term evaluation
- Request the Secretariat to collect, compile and analyse information on the implementation of the Protocol using the third national reports as a primary source, with a view to contributing to the third assessment and review of the Protocol in conjunction with the midterm evaluation of the Protocol's Strategic Plan.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413, Saint Jacques Street, suite 800
Montreal, Quebec, H2Y 1N9
Canada

Tel.: +1 514 288 2220
Fax: +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int

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