



Press Brief Protocol on Biosafety

Financial Mechanism and Resources

Background

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety provides that the financial mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity shall also be the financial mechanism for the Protocol. In 1994, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention designated the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as the institutional structure entrusted with the operation of the financial mechanism. The Protocol also encourages developed countries to provide additional financial and technological resources for the implementation of the provisions of the Protocol through bilateral, regional and multilateral channels.

What has been done?

At its previous meetings, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP) has adopted several decisions on matters related to the financial mechanism and resources and has made recommendations to the COP regarding further guidance to the financial mechanism (GEF) with respect to biosafety.

At its sixth meeting the COP-MOP advised the COP to invite the GEF to, among other things, develop a new strategy for financing biosafety and consider the new Framework and Action Plan for Capacity-Building in providing financial support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. It also invited the GEF to provide support to eligible Parties for specific activities including capacity-building activities relating to the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) and risk assessment and risk management and the preparation of the third national reports under the Protocol.



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What news to expect in Pyeongchang?

At the seventh meeting, it is expected that the COP-MOP will:

- Consider the current status and recommend to the COP measures to improve the level of GEF's support for the implementation of the Protocol, for incorporation into its further guidance to the GEF
- Advise COP to make funds available through a focal area set aside for small-scale projects to eligible Parties that inform the Compliance Committee of their difficulties in complying with the Protocol, and in particular for activities, among other things, to prepare for the third national reports
- Make a decision for Parties and other Governments to, among other things, integrate and prioritize biosafety within their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national development plans and programmes, as appropriate
- Adopt means of mobilizing additional financial resources for the implementation of the Protocol.

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

www.cbd.int/mop7