



## Press Brief Protocol on Biosafety

# Socio-economic Considerations

## Background

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety establishes the right of Parties to take into account socio-economic considerations arising from the impact of living modified organisms (LMOs) in reaching a decision on whether to import LMOs, especially with regard to the value of biological diversity to indigenous and local communities. However, when Parties are taking into account such considerations, they are at the same time required to ensure that the decision is consistent with their other international obligations. The Protocol also encourages Parties to cooperate on research and information exchange on any socio-economic impacts of LMOs, especially on indigenous and local communities.

## What is being done?

At their fifth meeting, held in 2010, the Parties adopted the Strategic Plan for the Protocol for the period 2011-2020. Operational objective 1.7 of the Strategic Plan addresses socio-economic considerations and is "to, on the basis of research and information exchange, provide relevant guidance on socio-economic considerations that may be taken into account in reaching decisions on the import of LMOs".

At their sixth meeting, the Parties requested the Secretariat to carry out a number of activities on socio-economic considerations, including: the convening of online discussion groups; the convening of regional online real-time conferences; and the compilation, stocktaking and review of existing information on socioeconomic considerations to develop a global overview.

Also at their sixth meeting, the Parties established an expert group to examine the outcomes of the activities, to develop conceptual clarity on socio-economic considerations. The expert group was hosted by the Government of Korea and was held in Seoul in February 2014.



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## What news to expect in Pyeongchang?

At their seventh meeting, the Parties will consider the report of the expert group. The Parties may decide to, among other things:

- Extend the expert group to work on the guidelines envisaged under operational objective 1.7 of the Strategic Plan, taking into account, among other things, elements of a framework for conceptual clarity on socio-economic considerations
- Request the Secretariat to convene online discussion groups, including concerning: the interface between risk assessment and socio-economic considerations; human health-related aspects of socio-economic considerations; and international obligations that may be relevant to socio-economic considerations
- Request the Secretariat to compile information on: policies, laws, regulations and guidelines providing for definitions of socio-economic considerations; and practical applications of socio-economic considerations in decision-making on LMOs, including cases where socio-economic impacts have been considered.

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