



Convention on Biological Diversity

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Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety Twelfth meeting

Yerevan, 19–30 October 2026
Item 15 of the provisional agenda*
Socioeconomic considerations

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Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. In decision [CP-9/14](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety took note of the guidance on the assessment of socioeconomic considerations in the context of Article 26 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, recalling that it is intended to be used on a voluntary basis.
2. In decision [CP-11/9](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol welcomed the information shared on experiences using the voluntary guidance, examples of methodologies and applications of socioeconomic considerations in the light of the elements of the guidance.
3. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol invited Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to use the voluntary guidance and share their experiences in this regard in the fifth national reports or to make such experiences available in the Biosafety Clearing-House virtual library.
4. Also in the same decision, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity was requested to synthesize the information provided in the fifth national reports further to that invitation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its twelfth meeting.
5. The present document contains a synthesis of the aforementioned information (sect. II) and a draft decision (sect. III).

* [CBD/CP/MOP/12/1](#).

II. Synthesis of information shared in the fifth national reports or made available through the Biosafety Clearing-House with relevance to the use of the voluntary guidance on the assessment of socioeconomic considerations in the context of Article 26 of the Cartagena Protocol

A. Information from the fifth national reports

6. In notification No. [2026-002](#), Parties to the Protocol were reminded that fifth national reports on the implementation of the Protocol were due by 28 February 2026. The notification also drew attention to the invitation in decision [CP-11/9](#) to share experience with the use of the voluntary guidance in the fifth national reports.

7. In question 152 of the format for the fifth national report, Parties were asked to provide further detail on the implementation of Article 26 of the Protocol. In their responses, most Parties addressed experience with socioeconomic considerations broadly, although one Party mentioned that the voluntary guidance had been taken into account in the assessments of socioeconomic aspects in a decision-making process concerning living modified microorganisms.

8. Many Parties described that their regulatory framework allowed for or required the consideration of socioeconomic aspects in the decision-making process on living modified organisms. Some Parties specified that social, economic, ethical, cultural and religious aspects should be considered in that context. Several Parties explained that socioeconomic aspects were considered separately from assessment of environmental and human health factors in the decision-making process for living modified organisms. A few Parties described that socioeconomic considerations were an integrated part of the risk assessment process. Some Parties mentioned that guidance documents for assessing socioeconomic aspects were in place or under development.

9. A few Parties explained that public awareness was an integral part of considering socioeconomic aspects in the decision-making process and that public consultations played a key role in that regard. Some Parties underlined the importance of involving farmers' organizations and women's groups.

10. Several of the Parties that indicated that their regulatory framework allowed for the consideration of socioeconomic aspects indicated that no decisions had been taken in the reporting period and that, as a result, socioeconomic considerations had not been taken into account.

11. Other Parties described that socioeconomic aspects had been taken into consideration in decision-making processes on living modified organisms. Some of those Parties described that the effects of the introduction of the living modified organism were considered on: the agricultural and food sectors in general; farmers' or household income; production cost and profitability; pesticide use; and seed cost. It was also mentioned that community acceptance of living modified organisms was considered in this context.

12. A few Parties mentioned that the consideration of socioeconomic aspects was a challenging process, and some underlined the need to strengthen capacities in that regard.

13. One Party described that it had been involved in a project in which parameters and methodologies for socioeconomic assessments were being developed. The Party explained that the approach was developed in an effort to strengthen the methodological basis for the decision-making process, as well as its consistency and transparency.

14. Some Parties described that, although their regulatory framework allowed for socioeconomic aspects to be considered, in practice they were not always considered or doing so posed practical challenges.

15. Some Parties described that their regulatory frameworks did not allow for socioeconomic considerations to be taken into account in the decision-making process on living modified organisms.

Some of those Parties described that efforts were under way or planned that would enable the considerations to be taken into account in the future.

B. Information from the Biosafety Clearing-House virtual library

16. At the time of writing the present document, a search of the virtual library for records published following the adoption of decision [CP-9/14](#) and under the thematic area “socio-economic and trade issues” resulted in 23 records. Nine of the records are baseline studies developed by a Party for various crops and one species of fish, published originally between December 2018 and July 2025. Some of the data used in the studies precede the development of the voluntary guidance. The baseline studies address several socioeconomic aspects related to the production of the crops and fish but they do not include explicit information on experience using the voluntary guidance. Of the remaining records, several address ethical questions, but none includes explicit information on experience using the voluntary guidance.

III. Conclusions and draft decision

17. Although only very limited information specifically on the use of the voluntary guidance was shared by Parties, the Parties did share details on the ways in which socioeconomic considerations are being taken into account in decision-making processes on living modified organisms. From the descriptions provided, it seems that socioeconomic aspects are generally considered very broadly, such as the various social, ethical, economic and other impacts of the introduction of a living modified organism. Several Parties indicated that work was under way to develop guidelines or methodologies for considering socioeconomic aspects. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol may wish to revisit this matter at a future meeting.

18. In the light of the above, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol

1. *Welcomes* the information shared on experiences in the use of the guidance on the assessment of socioeconomic considerations in the context of Article 26 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,^{1,2} while recognizing that limited information was submitted;

2. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to continue to share experiences on socioeconomic considerations, including the use of the guidance, in the Biosafety Clearing-House virtual library, as well as through the sixth national reports;

3. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare an overview of the information shared pursuant to paragraph 2 above to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, at its fourteenth meeting.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

² [CBD/CP/MOP/9/10](#), annex.