



Convention on Biological Diversity

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English only

Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment First meeting

Montreal, Canada, 1–3 November 2023

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

Organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda

1. In decision [CP-10/10](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed to develop additional voluntary guidance materials to support case-by-case risk assessments of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives in accordance with annex III to the Protocol. It also decided that the materials should have a specific focus on engineered gene drive mosquitoes, taking into account the current experience with the organism, the type of gene drive and specific issues of risk assessment, as identified in annex I to decision [CP-9/13](#), including existing reports, general considerations of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives and existing national and regional risk assessment experiences.
2. In paragraph 6 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties established an ad hoc technical expert group on risk assessment and requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to consider the outcomes of the Group.
3. In addition, the Executive Secretary was requested, inter alia:
 - (a) To commission, subject to the availability of resources and applying decision [14/33](#) of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, on the procedure for avoiding or managing conflicts of interest in expert groups, the preparation of a detailed outline of additional guidance materials on risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives, to be reviewed by the Online Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management as a base for the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment;
 - (b) To convene discussions of the Online Forum to review an outline of the additional voluntary guidance materials and to support the work of the Group;
 - (c) To collect and synthesize relevant information to facilitate the work of the Online Forum and the Group;
 - (d) To synthesize the views and discussions of the Online Forum and make them available to the Group.
4. In response to the above, the Secretariat of the Convention issued notification No. [2023-007](#), by which, pursuant to paragraph 7 of decision [CP-10/10](#), it invited Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations to submit information relevant

* CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/1.

to the work of the Expert Group. Pursuant to paragraph 8 of the same decision, it also invited Parties to submit information on their needs and priorities for further guidance materials on specific topics of risk assessment of living modified organisms, including a rationale following the criteria set out in annex I to decision [CP-9/13](#).

5. To facilitate discussions, participants will have before them a summary of the discussions held to date in the Open-ended Online Forum¹ and a synthesis of the submissions received on risk assessment.²

6. The first meeting of the Expert Group will be held at the offices of the Secretariat, in Montreal, Canada, from 1 to 3 November 2023, with financial support from the European Union. The registration of participants will take place upon arrival at the meeting venue, from 8.30 a.m. on the opening day.

7. The meeting will be held in English only.

8. The report of the meeting will be submitted to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for consideration at its twenty-sixth meeting.

Item 1

Opening of the meeting

9. A representative of the Secretariat will open the meeting at 9 a.m. on 1 November 2023.

Item 2

Organizational matters

(a) Election of officers

10. Participants will be invited to elect a chair or co-chairs for the meeting.

(b) Adoption of the agenda

11. Participants will be invited to adopt the provisional agenda for the meeting.

(c) Organization of work

12. Participants will be invited to approve the proposed organization of work (annex I). The work will be conducted in plenary session. Working groups will be established as necessary to facilitate the drafting of specific elements of the voluntary guidance materials.

Item 3

Comments on the detailed outline of additional voluntary guidance materials to support the case-by-case risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives

13. Participants will have before them the detailed draft outline of additional voluntary guidance materials to support the case-by-case risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives,³ as well as the summary of the discussions held in the Open-Ended Online Forum on Risk Assessment from 21 to 25 August 2023 to review the draft detailed outline, with a view to facilitating the work of the Expert Group.

14. The Group will be invited to discuss whether the detailed outline is comprehensive or lacks relevant concepts and, in the latter case, how such concepts could be addressed.

¹ CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/INF/1.

² CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/INF/2.

³ CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/3.

Item 4**Working modalities for the development of additional voluntary guidance materials**

15. The members will be invited to discuss and adopt a provisional workplan and to identify the specific technical skills required to complete the development of further guidance on additional voluntary guidance materials to support case-by-case risk assessments of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives in accordance with annex III to the Protocol.

16. To facilitate discussions, participants will be invited to consider the relevant parts of documents CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/2 and CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/3 to establish a subgroup to conduct further work on this topic.

Item 5**Review of the detailed outline**

17. In its terms of reference,⁴ the Group is tasked with developing additional voluntary guidance materials for conducting case-by-case risk assessments of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives in accordance with annex III to the Protocol. Accordingly, a draft outline has been structured in two parts, which address general considerations and specific elements relating to engineered gene drive *Anopheles* mosquitoes, respectively.

(a) Part A: risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives

18. Part A of the detailed outline provides an overview of the general considerations concerning living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives.

19. To facilitate discussions on part A, participants will be invited to consider the relevant parts of documents CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/2, CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/3, CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/INF/1 and CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/INF/2.

(b) Part B: risk assessment of engineered gene drive *Anopheles* mosquitoes for malaria control

20. As stated in the terms of reference of the Group, a specific focus of the additional voluntary guidance materials should be engineered gene drive mosquitos, taking into account the current experience with the organism, the type of gene drive and specific issues of risk assessment, identified in annex I to decision [CP-9/13](#), including existing reports, general considerations of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives, and existing national and regional risk assessment experiences. Accordingly, part B of the detailed outline provides the elements related to risk assessment of engineered gene drive *Anopheles* mosquitoes for malaria control.

21. To facilitate discussions on part B, participants will be invited to consider the relevant parts of documents CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/2, CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/3, CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/INF/1 and CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/INF/2.

Item 6**List of prioritized topics for which further guidance materials on risk assessment may be needed**

22. In its terms of reference, the Group is tasked with analysing the information submitted by Parties pursuant to paragraph 8 of decision [CP-10/10](#) and, on that basis, to prepare a list of prioritized topics on which further guidance materials on risk assessment may be needed according to the criteria in annex I to decision [CP-9/13](#).

23. Participants will be invited to consider a provisional list of prioritized topics that have been submitted by Parties, with a view to concluding their deliberations at their second meeting and to

⁴ Decision [CP-10/10](#), annex.

preparing a report for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for consideration at its twenty-sixth meeting.

24. Participants will be invited to consider the relevant parts of documents CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/2 and CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/INF/2.

Item 7

Other matters

25. Under item 7, participants will have an opportunity to raise other matters of relevance.

Item 8

Adoption of the report

26. Participants will be invited to adopt the report of the meeting.

Item 9

Closure of the meeting

27. The meeting is expected to close at 5 p.m. on 3 November 2023.

Annex I

Provisional organization of work

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
Wednesday, 1 November 2023	
9–10.15 a.m.	Item 1. Opening of the meeting Item 2. Organizational matters Item 3. Comments on the detailed outline of additional voluntary guidance materials to support the case-by-case risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives
10.15–10.30 a.m.	Coffee break
10.30 a.m.–12 p.m.	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>) Item 4. Working modalities for the development of additional voluntary guidance materials
12–1.30 p.m.	Lunch break
1.30–3.45 p.m.	Item 5 (a). Review of the detailed outline: part A: risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives
3.45–4 p.m.	Coffee break
4–7 p.m.	Item 5 (a) (<i>continued</i>)
Thursday, 2 November 2023	
9–10.15 a.m.	Item 5 (b). Review of the detailed outline: part B: risk assessment of engineered gene drive <i>Anopheles</i> mosquitoes for malaria control
10.15–10.30 a.m.	Coffee break
10.30 a.m.–12 p.m.	Item 5 (b) (<i>continued</i>)
12–1.30 p.m.	Lunch break
1.30–3.45 p.m.	Item 5 (a) and (b) (<i>continued</i>)
3.45–4 p.m.	Coffee break
4–7 p.m.	Item 5 (a) and (b) (<i>continued</i>)
Friday, 3 November 2023	
9–10.15 a.m.	Item 6. List of prioritized topics for which further guidance materials on risk assessment may be needed
10.15–10.30 a.m.	Coffee break
10.30 a.m.–12 p.m.	Item 6 (<i>continued</i>) Item 7. Other matters
12–1.30 p.m.	Lunch break
1.30–3.45 p.m.	Item 8. Adoption of the report
3.45–4 p.m.	Coffee break

4–5 p.m.	Item 8 (<i>continued</i>) Item 9. Closure of the meeting
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Annex II

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
Working documents	
CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/1	Provisional agenda
CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/1/Add.1/Rev.1	Annotated provisional agenda
CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/2	Considerations on risk assessment
CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/3	Detailed outline of the voluntary additional guidance materials on risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives
Information documents	
CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/INF/1	Summary of discussions of the Open-ended Online Forum on Risk Assessment
CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/INF/2	Synthesis of submissions on risk assessment