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REPORT OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE UNDER THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY ON THE WORK OF ITS SEVENTEENTH MEETING ONLINE, 15-17 APRIL 2020

INTRODUCTION

1. The seventeenth meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was held from 15 to 17 April 2020.

2. A face-to-face meeting of the Compliance Committee had been scheduled to take place in Montreal, Canada, at the offices of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. However, due to restrictions related to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held online through a combination of live sessions and a discussion on the Compliance Committee Collaborative Portal on the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH). The decision to proceed with the meeting in an online format was made in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties.

3. The following members of the Committee participated in the meeting:

Africa

Ms. Mahaman Gado Zaki
Mr. Rigobert Ntep
Mr. Dorington O. Ogoyi

Latin America and the Caribbean

Ms. Georgina M. Catacora-Vargas
Ms. Jimena Nieto Carrasco
Mr. Malachy Dottin

Asia and the Pacific

Mr. Achmad Gusman Siswandi

Western Europe and Others

Mr. Andreas Heissenberger
Mr. Casper Linnestad
Mr. Michelangelo Lombardo

Central and Eastern Europe

Mr. Martin Batic
Ms. Dubravka Stepic

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The Chair of the Committee, Mr. Rigobert Ntep, opened the meeting at 8 a.m. EDT (GMT-4) on 15 April 2020. He welcomed the participants and thanked the Secretariat for facilitating the organization of the meeting.

5. The Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, made some opening remarks. Recognizing the challenging nature of the current circumstances, both at the professional and personal levels, she thanked members for adapting their schedules in order to actively participate in the online meeting and to enable the Committee to proceed with its work.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

6. A representative of the Secretariat confirmed that, with 12 members present, there was a quorum for the meeting to proceed in accordance with rule 16 of the rules of procedure for meetings of the Committee.¹

7. A representative of the Secretariat recalled rule 15 of the rules of procedure for the meetings of the Committee (decision BS-II/1, annex) and indicated that, in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretariat had sought alternative means that would allow the Committee to meet in a way that most resembled a face-to-face meeting. He explained that the GoToWebinar platform used for the live sessions of the meeting would allow the members to engage directly with one another and contribute to the discussions in a way similar to that of a face-to-face setting. He noted that the proposed organization of work would enable the Committee to consider all of the items on the agenda during the live sessions.

8. The Committee agreed that, in the light of the exceptional circumstances, the suggested approach was suitable and would allow the Committee to adopt its report, including recommendations to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol.

2.1. Adoption of the agenda

9. On the basis of the provisional agenda ([CBD/CP/CC/17/1](#)) prepared by the Secretariat, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - 2.1. Adoption of the agenda;
 - 2.2. Organization of work.
3. Compliance with the obligation to submit national reports.
4. Input to the fourth assessment and review of the Cartagena Protocol and the final evaluation of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020.
5. General issues of compliance.
6. Individual cases of non-compliance.
7. Update on the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and related processes.
8. Report and recommendations of the Compliance Committee to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its tenth meeting.
9. Other matters.
10. Adoption of the report.
11. Closure of the meeting.

2.2. Organization of work

10. The Committee agreed on the organization of work proposed by the Secretariat, as specified in annex I of the revised annotations to the provisional agenda ([CBD/CP/CC/17/1/Add.1/Rev.1](#)). It was noted that the revised organization of work indicated a combination of live virtual meeting sessions and a discussion through the Committee's Collaborative Portal, hosted on the BCH and accessible only to members of the Committee.

ITEM 3. COMPLIANCE WITH THE OBLIGATION TO SUBMIT NATIONAL REPORTS

11. Introducing the item, a representative of the Secretariat provided an update of the information in document [CBD/CP/CC/17/2](#). He recalled that, through notification 2019-19, dated 13 February 2019, Parties had been invited to submit their fourth national report by 1 October 2019. He explained that 101 reports had now been published on the BCH. He also informed the Committee that seven additional

¹ See decision [BS-II/1](#), annex.

Parties had submitted their report offline and that the Secretariat was in contact with those Parties to complete, as necessary, missing information in those reports to facilitate their publication on the BCH. He also provided an update on the information received from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) concerning the project to support Parties in the preparation of their fourth national report. He explained that, according to UNEP, two medium-sized project proposals had been submitted for approval to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in the week preceding the meeting.

12. In addition, the representative of the Secretariat informed the Committee that Angola had submitted its third national report, bringing the total number of third national reports to 158.

13. The Committee welcomed the documentation prepared for this item, including the regional breakdowns of the submission rates of the current and past national reports. The Committee expressed its disappointment over the low number of fourth national reports that had been submitted and noted that the submission rate was lower than at a similar point in time following the deadlines for submission of the second and third national reports. The Committee noted with concern that 11 Parties² that had not submitted their fourth national report had also not submitted their third national report.

14. The Committee considered a number of possible factors that might have contributed to the low number of fourth national reports submitted, including delayed access to financial support, lack of dedicated human resources at the national level, as well as a lack of priority for and awareness of biosafety issues.

15. The Committee noted that improvements made to the format for the fourth national reports might have facilitated the preparation of the national reports, but it recognized that that had not led to the submission of a higher number of fourth national reports by the reporting deadline.

16. With regard to access to funding to support the preparation of national reports, the Committee stressed the importance of the timely availability of sufficient resources. In that context, the Committee considered the delay that eligible Parties faced in accessing GEF funding for the preparation of their fourth national report. The Committee noted that the approach to collect as many letters of commitment as possible before submitting the projects for GEF approval had created significant delays in accessing funding, in particular for those Parties that had submitted their letter of commitment in a timely manner. The Committee also considered the availability of funding from other sources for the implementation of the Protocol, including for national reporting, and the importance of prioritizing biosafety in national budget allocations.

17. The Committee acknowledged that a lack of priority accorded to and awareness of biosafety were also important underlying factors in the low number of fourth national reports submitted. The Committee noted that its past activities to address non-compliance with the obligation to submit national reports had been very useful in drawing the necessary attention to the issue, which had ultimately led to the resolution of a number of persistent cases of non-compliance. The Committee recalled that its incremental follow-up with individual Parties as well as the identification of the Parties in non-compliance in its recommendations and in the relevant decisions by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol had contributed to the positive results achieved in previous reporting cycles. The Committee recognized, however, that those steps had had a limited impact on the timeliness of the submission of the national reports.

18. The Committee recalled that the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, in its decision CP-9/5, had decided to have a synchronized reporting cycle for the Convention and its Protocols for the next round of national reports, beginning in 2023. The Committee

² Azerbaijan, Belize, Cabo Verde, Libya, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, State of Palestine and Syrian Arab Republic.

recognized that the synchronized reporting cycle might contribute to raising awareness of biosafety at the national level and that that might encourage timely reporting under the Protocol. The Committee noted that the early availability of funding would be even more important if synchronized reporting were to lead to an earlier submission deadline for the fifth national report. The Committee was of the view that the synchronized reporting cycle could have a positive effect on the reporting rate, but noted that the synchronized reporting cycle might have different effects on different Parties, depending on the division of responsibilities for the Convention and the Protocol among institutions at the national level and that earmarked funding for reporting under the Protocol would be important.

19. The Committee requested the Secretariat to continue following up with Parties that had not yet submitted their fourth national report.

20. The Committee requested the Executive Secretary to send a letter to Parties that had submitted neither a third nor a fourth national report, reminding those Parties of their obligation to submit their fourth national report as a matter of urgency.

21. The Committee encouraged its members to liaise with those Parties in their region that had submitted neither a third nor a fourth national report with a view to offering assistance to those Parties in preparing their fourth national report.

22. The Committee decided to recommend that, at its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties:

- (a) Welcome the 101 complete fourth national reports submitted;³
- (b) Express concern about the low number of fourth national reports submitted;
- (c) Also express concern about delays in the project to be submitted to GEF to support eligible Parties in the preparation of their fourth national reports, noting that such funding was not available before the deadline for the submission of fourth national reports, which is one of the factors that may have affected the submission rate;
- (d) Urge Parties that have not yet submitted their fourth national report to do so as soon as possible;⁴
- (e) Note with concern that, of the Parties that have not yet submitted their fourth national report, some Parties have also not submitted their third national report;⁵
- (f) Urge Parties that have submitted an incomplete fourth national report to provide the missing information as soon as possible;
- (g) Recommend that the Conference of the Parties, in adopting its guidance to the financial mechanism with respect to support for the implementation of the Protocol, invite GEF to make funds available in a timely manner to support eligible Parties in preparing and submitting their fifth national reports.

³ Number to be updated to reflect number of reports received by the time of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol.

⁴ Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cabo Verde, Colombia, Comoros, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Eritrea, Eswatini, Fiji, Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nauru, Niue, North Macedonia, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Yemen and Zimbabwe. [List to be updated prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol]

⁵ Azerbaijan, Belize, Cabo Verde, Libya, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, State of Palestine and Syrian Arab Republic.

**ITEM 4. INPUT TO THE FOURTH ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW OF THE
CARTAGENA PROTOCOL AND FINAL EVALUATION OF THE STRATEGIC
PLAN FOR THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL FOR THE PERIOD 2011-2020**

23. A representative of the Secretariat recalled decision [CP-9/6](#), whereby the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol had decided that the fourth assessment and review of the Protocol would be combined with the final evaluation of the Strategic Plan. He also recalled that the Liaison Group and the Compliance Committee had been requested to contribute to the fourth assessment and review of the Protocol and the final evaluation of the Strategic Plan and to submit their conclusions for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting.

24. He further recalled that the Compliance Committee at its sixteenth meeting had decided that the scope of its input to the fourth assessment and review of the Protocol and the final evaluation of the Strategic Plan would focus on operational objective 3.1 of the Strategic Plan, related to compliance, and on the experience the Committee had gained in implementing its supportive role of assisting Parties in complying with their obligations.

25. Accordingly, he drew the attention of the Committee to the note by the Executive Secretary prepared for this agenda item ([CBD/CP/CC/17/3](#)), which contained relevant information for the consideration by the Committee in that regard. He explained that the note had been developed on the basis of the analysis for the fourth assessment and review of the Protocol and the final evaluation of the Strategic Plan, which had been issued as CBD/CP/CC/17/INF/1.

26. The Committee reviewed the information presented in the working document, including the summary of progress made towards the indicators related to operational objective 3.1 of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol. It noted considerable variations in progress on indicators related to Parties' compliance with key obligations under the Protocol. It recognized the progress made by Parties in making certain information available to the BCH (for example on decisions regarding the importation of living modified organisms (LMOs) for intentional introduction into the environment), and in designating national focal points and competent national authorities. It also recognized, however, that limited progress had been reported in other areas, for example in relation to compliance with the obligation to take the necessary legal, administrative and other measures to implement the Protocol, and in relation to the obligation to submit a national report in a timely manner. The Committee discussed the need for Parties to have in place monitoring and enforcement systems for the implementation of the Protocol and that further efforts in that regard may be needed.

27. The Committee recognized that the Strategic Plan had enabled the Committee to review in a systematic way the progress that Parties had made on a number of key obligations under the Protocol and to consider the Committee's role in supporting Parties in that regard.

28. The Committee recognized that its work had contributed to the progress made towards achieving operational objective 3.1. The Committee noted that its activities had focused mainly on a number of key obligations under the Protocol, in particular on: (a) compliance with the obligation to submit national reports; (b) the obligation to adopt the measures necessary for the implementation of the Protocol; (c) the obligation to designate focal points; and (d) the obligation to make mandatory information available to the BCH. The Committee recalled that since the adoption of decision BS-V/1,⁶ it had taken incremental measures to address compliance in these areas, and that the Committee's role in contributing to progress reported by Parties had been welcomed by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the

⁶ Decision BS-V/1 enabled the Committee to consider taking certain measures under section VI of the procedures and mechanisms on compliance (decision BS-1/7, annex), if a Party fails to submit a national report or information has been received through a national report or the Secretariat, based on information from the BCH, that shows that the Party concerned is faced with difficulties complying with its obligations under the Protocol.

Parties to the Protocol. The Committee noted the importance of communicating the background of its recommendations to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

29. The Committee noted with regret that although the availability of financial resources for the implementation of the Protocol was an ongoing challenge for many Parties, the Committee's recommendations to invite Parties and donors to provide funding to support Parties in addressing their compliance issues had not resulted in the availability of funding for this purpose. The Committee also recognized that there may be other challenges that Parties face in complying with their obligations under the Protocol and that there was a need to analyse those challenges, following the conclusion of the fourth assessment and review of the Protocol and the final evaluation of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol. The Committee recalled its past discussions in that regard, in particular concerning a previous survey, conducted in 2018, on challenges Parties faced in taking the necessary legal, administrative and other measures to implement the Protocol.⁷

30. The Committee recognized that lack of priority accorded to biosafety is an important challenge. In this context, the Committee recalled decision CP-9/7 and reiterated the importance of addressing biosafety in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and suggested that that could contribute to mainstreaming biosafety and to raising awareness on biosafety. The Committee was also of the view that a reference to the implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol and the capacity-building action plan should be included in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, recognizing that the Protocol could be relevant to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

31. The Committee noted that the analysis for the fourth assessment and review of the Protocol and the final evaluation of the Strategic Plan was based on a limited number of national reports received by 15 January 2020 and that an update to the analysis might be necessary at a later stage.

32. The Committee requested the Executive Secretary to transmit its conclusions in paragraphs 26 to 31 to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for consideration at its third meeting.

33. The Committee decided to recommend that, at its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol:

(a) Welcome progress made by Parties in complying with their obligations under the Protocol, including the obligations concerning: (i) making certain information available to the Biosafety Clearing-House, and; (ii) the designation of national focal points and competent national authorities;

(b) Note with concern that a large number of Parties are not in full compliance with key obligations under the Protocol, including: (i) the obligation to take the necessary legal, administrative and other measures to implement the Protocol, and (ii) the obligation to submit a national report in a timely manner;

(c) Recognize the need for Parties to have in place monitoring and enforcement systems for the implementation of the Protocol;

(d) Urge Parties that have not yet completely done so to put in place legal, administrative and other measures to implement their obligations under the Protocol;

(e) Also urge Parties that have not yet completely done so to make all required information available to the BCH and keep their records up-to-date, focusing in particular on information related to: (i) national legislation, regulation and guidelines; (ii) summaries of risk assessments; (iii) final decisions regarding the importation or release of living modified organisms; (iv) national focal points, national points of contact and competent national authorities; (v) information on bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements or arrangements it has entered, and; (vi) information concerning illegal transboundary movements of living modified organisms;

⁷ CBD/CP/CC/15/4.

- (f) Request the Executive Secretary:
 - (i) To develop an online survey on the national limitations and challenges in fulfilling (a) the obligation to take the necessary legal, administrative and other measures to implement the Protocol, and (b) the obligation to submit a national report in a timely manner;
 - (ii) To invite all Parties to complete the survey;
 - (iii) To compile the findings and submit these for consideration by the Committee, at its eighteenth meeting;
- (g) Recommend that the Conference of the Parties, in adopting its guidance to the financial mechanism, with respect to support for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, invite the GEF to make specific funding available to eligible Parties to: (i) put in place legal, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the Protocol; and (ii) support eligible Parties in implementing compliance action plans regarding the achievement of compliance with the Protocol;
- (h) Recognize that the post-2020 global biodiversity framework can contribute to the implementation of and compliance with the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and acknowledge the relevance of the Protocol and its post-2020 implementation plan and capacity-building action plan to the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (i) Welcome the Committee's supportive role, carried out pursuant to decision BS-V/1, as a contribution to the progress reported towards achieving operational objective 3.1 on compliance;
- (j) Request the Secretariat, as appropriate and following guidance provided by the Committee, to continue following up with Parties that have not yet fully complied with their obligations under the Protocol, and request Parties to collaborate fully in this regard;
- (k) Welcome the Committee's input to the fourth assessment and review of the Protocol and final evaluation of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol, and request the Committee to continue providing input to the fifth assessment and review and evaluation process of the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol, as appropriate.

ITEM 5. REVIEW OF GENERAL ISSUES OF COMPLIANCE

34. A representative of the Secretariat recalled that, at its sixteenth meeting, the Compliance Committee had reviewed compliance on the basis of information in the BCH and, in that context, had considered compliance with the obligation to designate national focal points and competent national authorities. He introduced the note by the Executive Secretary ([CBD/CP/CC/17/4](#)), which provided a report on follow-up activities and their outcomes.

35. The Committee recognized the importance of the designation of national focal points, competent national authorities and contact points for receiving notifications under Article 17 and noted with regret that a few Parties had still not designated some national contacts since its previous meeting.⁸

36. The Committee welcomed the ongoing efforts by the Secretariat to communicate with Parties on that matter and requested the Secretariat to continue to provide the Committee with an update, in line with the Committee's cyclical organization of work, agreed at its eighth meeting.

⁸ Luxembourg, Marshall Islands and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had not designated a national focal point for the Cartagena Protocol; Fiji had not designated a national focal point for the Biosafety Clearing-House; the State of Palestine had not designated a national focal point for the Protocol or for the Biosafety Clearing-House; Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Cabo Verde, Congo, Dominica, Iraq, Jamaica, Kuwait, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, State of Palestine and Suriname had not designated a competent national authority; Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Dominica, Georgia, Grenada, Iraq, Jamaica, Kuwait, Marshall Islands, Morocco, Mozambique, Nauru, Nicaragua, Niue, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Qatar, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Suriname, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates and United Republic of Tanzania had not designated a point of contact for the purpose of receiving notifications under Article 17.

37. The Committee recalled the recommendations it had agreed to at its sixteenth meeting in this regard⁹ and acknowledged that these would be included in the report of the Committee to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, at its tenth meeting.

ITEM 6. REVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL CASES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

38. Introducing the item, a representative of the Secretariat indicated that the note by the Executive Secretary on the subject ([CBD/CP/CC/17/5](#)) provided an overview of developments and actions taken since the Committee's sixteenth meeting regarding the individual cases of non-compliance.

39. He recalled that the Committee, at its sixteenth meeting, had reviewed the non-compliance by Montenegro with its reporting obligation under Article 33 of the Protocol and had decided on follow-up steps. He informed the Committee that, on 9 April 2020, Montenegro had submitted its fourth national report through the BCH.

40. A Committee member from the Central and Eastern European (CEE) region described her informal communications with Montenegro. She recalled that the national focal point of Montenegro had changed several times over recent years and that that might have contributed to the difficulty that the Party faced in submitting its national reports. She indicated that she had been in frequent contact with the current national focal point of Montenegro during the preceding few months for the purpose of assisting Montenegro in preparing and submitting its national report. The Committee welcomed the submission by Montenegro and thanked the member from the CEE region for her dedication and perseverance. The Committee agreed that no further follow-up action with Montenegro in that regard was required.

41. It was recalled that, at its sixteenth meeting, the Committee had reviewed non-compliance by a number of Parties with their obligation under Article 2, paragraph 1, of the Protocol, to take the necessary and appropriate legal, administrative and other measures to implement their obligations under the Protocol, and had agreed on some follow-up actions.

42. The Committee recalled that it had requested those Parties that had reported in their third national report not having taken any measures, or only having taken draft or temporary measures, to develop a compliance action plan. The Committee considered the developments and actions taken with the concerned Parties since its sixteenth meeting.

43. The Committee welcomed the successful completion by Niger of the activities described in its compliance action plan. It also welcomed the submission of a compliance action plan by Morocco.

44. The Committee noted the information provided by Mauritania indicating that some progress had been made towards the development of measures.

45. The Committee noted with regret that three Parties that had submitted compliance action plans had not responded to the follow-up by the Secretariat concerning the progress made in carrying out the activities outlined in their respective plans.¹⁰

46. The Committee also expressed regret that 18 Parties had still not submitted a compliance action plan or provided further information on measures taken to implement the Protocol, despite having been requested to do so on several occasions.¹¹

47. The Committee decided:

⁹ CBD/CP/CC/16/7, para. 26.

¹⁰ Barbados, Kyrgyzstan and Oman.

¹¹ Bahamas, Botswana, Burundi, Dominica, Fiji, Gambia, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Palau, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

(a) That the Chair of the Committee would send a letter to Niger, congratulating it on the adoption of its biosafety legislation and the publication of the information in the BCH resulting in the successful achievement of its compliance action plan;

(b) That the Chair of the Committee would also send a letter to Mauritania, expressing thanks for having provided information on the expected adoption of measures to implement the Protocol and urging Mauritania to publish the relevant measures on the BCH and to submit a fourth national report reflecting that information as soon as possible;

(c) To request the Secretariat to continue following up with Eritrea to urge it to submit its biosafety measures to the BCH. The Secretariat should also urge Eritrea to submit its fourth national report without further delay and include any relevant information on the adoption of national measures for implementation of the Protocol;

(d) To request the Secretariat to continue following up with Barbados, Kyrgyzstan and Oman to monitor any progress made, further to the information provided in their respective compliance action plans;

(e) To request the Secretariat to continue to follow up with those Parties that have not yet submitted a compliance action plan,¹² urging them to do so as soon as possible. Follow-up should take into account any information that those Parties have provided or may still provide in their fourth national reports and the BCH, as appropriate.

48. The Committee agreed to reconsider follow-up actions with the Parties concerned, as a matter of priority, at its next meeting in the light of the information provided in their fourth national report or in their communications with the Secretariat.

49. The Committee decided to recommend that, at its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties:

(a) Urge Parties and invite other Governments to provide voluntary funds in support of the four Parties¹³ that have developed compliance action plans, as well as any additional Parties that develop and implement compliance action plans at the request of the Committee.

(b) Recommend that the Conference of the Parties, in adopting its guidance to the financial mechanism with respect to support for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, invite GEF to make funding available to support Parties in implementing compliance action plans regarding the achievement of compliance with the Protocol.

ITEM 7. UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK AND RELATED PROCESSES

50. A representative of the Secretariat provided an update on post-2020 processes under the Convention and the Cartagena Protocol, including the process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the long-term strategic framework on capacity-building for the Convention and the Protocols, the implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol and the capacity-building action plan.

51. The Committee welcomed the information provided and recognized the importance of the post-2020 process for biosafety and for enhancing compliance with the Protocol. Some members shared information on their experiences from their participation in meetings of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and expressed the view that further efforts were needed to strengthen biosafety in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

¹² Bahamas, Botswana, Burundi, Dominica, Fiji, Gambia, Grenada, Guinea, Guyana, Palau, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

¹³ Barbados, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco and Oman.

**ITEM 8. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE
PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL AT ITS TENTH MEETING**

52. The Committee considered and adopted a consolidated report on the work of its two intersessional meetings, including recommendations for consideration and adoption, as appropriate, by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its tenth meeting.

ITEM 9. OTHER MATTERS

53. A representative of the Secretariat informed the Committee that the terms of 10 of its members would end on 31 December 2020 and that, therefore, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol would be invited to elect 10 members at its tenth meeting. The members of the Committee whose terms would end at the end of the year are: (a) *Africa*: Rigobert Ntep; Dorington Ogoyi; (b) *Latin America and the Caribbean*: Jimena Nieto Carrasco; Malachy Dottin; (c) *Western Europe and Others Group*: Andreas Heissenberger; Casper Linnestad; (d) *Central and Eastern Europe*: Dubravka Stepic; Shirin Karryeva; (e) *Asia and the Pacific*: Mohammad Ali Zarie Zare; Letchumanan Ramatha.

54. A representative of the Secretariat recalled that, at its sixteenth meeting, the Committee had decided to recommend that, at its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol remind Parties of rule II, paragraph 4, on the procedures and mechanisms on compliance, and urge Parties to ensure that members were elected on the understanding that they would serve a full four-year term.

55. The Committee noted that two members of the Committee had served two consecutive terms and would not be eligible for re-election. The Committee thanked Ms. Dubravka Stepic and Ms. Jimena Nieto Carrasco for their commitment and dedication to the Committee. It recalled that Ms. Nieto had served as the Chair of the Committee from 2013 to 2016 and Vice-Chair in 2019 and 2020 and noted that she had been instrumental in exploring and enhancing the role of the Committee. The Committee also expressed gratitude to Ms. Stepic for her role as a member, noting her efforts in bringing the matter of the compliance of Montenegro with its reporting obligation to a successful conclusion.

ITEM 10. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

56. The Chair introduced the draft report of the Committee, which was adopted as orally amended.

ITEM 11. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

57. The Chair expressed his satisfaction that the Committee had been able to undertake deliberations on all its agenda items despite the challenges created by the global pandemic and the shift to hold the meeting online. He expressed the hope that the Committee would be able to hold its next meeting face-to-face, as that was the preferred way for holding meetings. He thanked the members for their cooperation and their flexibility.

58. The Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.45 a.m. on Friday, 17 April 2020.
