



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.: General
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English only

Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment Second meeting

Montreal, Canada, 27 February–1 March 2024

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

Organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda

1. At its first meeting, held from 1 to 3 November 2023, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment established by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity in its decision [CP-10/10](#) considered the detailed outline of the 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 and split into drafting groups to work intersessionally on the further development of the voluntary guidance materials until its second meeting.
2. At the present meeting, the Group will be invited to consider a synthesis of the submissions received on needs and priorities for further guidance materials on specific topics of risk assessments of living modified organisms and the result of the intersessional work of the drafting groups.
3. The second meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will be held at the offices of the Secretariat, in Montreal, Canada, from 27 February to 1 March 2024, 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.
4. The meeting will be conducted in English.
5. The report on 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

6. A representative of the Secretariat will open the meeting at 9 a.m. on 27 February 2024.

Item 2

Organizational matters

(a) Adoption of the agenda

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

* CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2024/1/1.

(b) Organization of work

8. Participants will be invited to approve the proposed organization of work (annex I). 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

Prioritized topics for which further guidance materials on risk assessment may be needed

9. In its terms of reference,¹ the Ad Hoc Technical Expert 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 listed in annex I to decision [CP-9/13](#).

10. Participants will be invited to consider the updated list of prioritized topics submitted by Parties,² with a view to concluding their deliberations and preparing a report for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-sixth meeting.

Item 4

Consideration of the draft additional voluntary guidance materials to support the case-by-case risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives

11. In its terms of reference, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group is also 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. At its first meeting, the Group established drafting groups that worked intersessionally on advancing the detailed outline prepared by the Secretariat. The draft additional voluntary guidance document has been completed, and participants will be invited to review it and address outstanding elements in order to finalize the additional voluntary guidance materials.

12. As stated in the terms of reference, 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.

13. To facilitate discussions, participants will be have before them a draft of the additional voluntary guidance materials compiled from the drafting groups' intersessional work.³ Participants may wish to establish a subgroup to conduct further work on this topic.

Item 5

Other matters

14. Under agenda item 5, participants will have an opportunity to raise other matters of relevance.

Item 6

Adoption of the report

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

Item 7

Closure of the meeting

16. The meeting is expected to be closed at 5 p.m. on 1 March 2024.

¹ Decision [CP-10/10](#), annex.

² CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2024/1/2.

³ Ibid.

Annex I

Provisional organization of work

| <i>Date and time</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, 27 February 2024 | |
| 9–10.15 a.m. | Item 1. Opening of the meeting Item 2. Organizational matters Item 3. Prioritized topics for which further guidance materials on risk assessment may be needed |
| 10.15–10.30 a.m. | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 10.30 a.m.–12 p.m. | Item 4. Consideration of the draft additional voluntary guidance materials to support the case-by-case risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives |
| 12–1.30 p.m. | <i>Lunch break</i> |
| 1.30–3.45 p.m. | Item 4 (<i>continued</i>) |
| 3.45–4 p.m. | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 4–7 p.m. | Item 4 (<i>continued</i>) |
| Wednesday, 28 February 2024 | |
| 9–10.15 a.m. | Item 4 (<i>continued</i>) |
| 10.15–10.30 a.m. | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 10.30 a.m.–12 p.m. | Item 4 (<i>continued</i>) |
| 12–1.30 p.m. | <i>Lunch break</i> |
| 1.30–3.45 p.m. | Item 4 (<i>continued</i>) |
| 3.45–4 p.m. | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 4–7 p.m. | Item 4 (<i>continued</i>) |
| Thursday, 29 February 2024 | |
| 9–10.15 a.m. | Item 4 (<i>continued</i>) |
| 10.15–10.30 a.m. | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 10.30 a.m.–12 p.m. | Item 4 (<i>continued</i>) |
| 12–1.30 p.m. | <i>Lunch break</i> |
| 1.30–3.45 p.m. | Item 4 (<i>continued</i>) |
| 3.45–4 p.m. | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 4–7 p.m. | Item 4 (<i>continued</i>) |
| Friday, 1 March 2024 | |
| 9–10.15 a.m. | Item 5. Other matters |
| 10.15–10.30 a.m. | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 10.30 a.m.–12 p.m. | Item 6. Adoption of the report |
| 12–1.30 p.m. | <i>Lunch break</i> |
| 1.30–3.45 p.m. | Item 6 (<i>continued</i>) |
| 3.45–4 p.m. | <i>Coffee break</i> |

| <i>Date and time</i> | <i>Agenda item</i> |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 4-5 p.m. | Item 7. Closure of the meeting |

Annex II**List of documents**

| <i>Symbol</i> | <i>Title</i> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2024/1/1 | Provisional agenda |
| CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2024/1/1/Add.1 | Annotated provisional agenda |
| CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2024/1/2 | Considerations on risk assessment |
