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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
Agenda item 16
National legislation, regulations and guidelines on new developments in modern biotechnology

Information on national legislation, regulations and guidelines on new developments in modern biotechnology

Draft decision submitted by the Chair of Working Group II

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

Acknowledging that the definitions of "living modified organism" and "modern biotechnology" provided in Article 3 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety[1] are not in question,

Recognizing the sovereign right of Parties to adopt legislation to implement their obligations under the Cartagena Protocol,

Recognizing also that regulatory approaches may differ among Parties in the light of their respective national circumstances and domestic legal and institutional frameworks,

Recognizing further that the voluntary exchange and compilation of information on diverse regulatory approaches to products of modern biotechnology may support transparency and understanding of ongoing developments in national legislation, regulations and guidelines in that context,

1. *Welcomes* the information submitted by Parties regarding current national legislation, regulations and guidelines on new developments in modern biotechnology, while noting with regret that only a few Parties submitted information;

2. *Takes note* of the information regarding current national legislation, regulations and guidelines on new developments in modern biotechnology available through the Biosafety Clearing-House and in other sources, and acknowledges the ongoing efforts in various forums to track information on the development of legislation, regulations and guidelines concerning organisms developed through modern biotechnology;

3. *Recognizes* that modern biotechnology is developing rapidly and that regulatory responses have been developed or are under development in several countries;

4. *Invites* Parties and other Governments to submit through the Biosafety Clearing-House additional, updated or newly available information related to national legislation, regulations and

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

guidelines on new developments in modern biotechnology that are relevant to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to provide a form for Parties and other Governments to use when submitting the information referred to in paragraph 4 above;

[6. *Invites* the Executive Secretary to seek the view of the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol on the quality of the information submitted in response to paragraph 4 above, if necessary;]

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to compile the information received in response to paragraph 4 above and submit it for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its thirteenth meeting.