



Convention on Biological Diversity

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**Subsidiary Body on Scientific,
Technical and Technological Advice**
Twenty-sixth meeting
Nairobi, 13–18 May 2024
Agenda item 7
**Detection and identification of
living modified organisms**

Detection and identification of living modified organisms

Draft recommendation submitted by the Chair

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice,

Noting the information contained in document CBD/SBSTTA/26/6,

1. *Concludes that the Training Manual on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (Biosafety Technical Series 05) is still relevant and useful for the detection and identification of living modified organisms and that there is no need to update it at this point in time;*

2. *Recommends that, at its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety adopt a decision along the following lines:*

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

Recalling its decisions [CP-10/7](#) and [CP-10/11](#) of 10 December 2022 and the need for capacity-building activities on new detection techniques [and on detecting and identifying unauthorized living modified organisms],

Also recalling its decisions CP-10/3 and CP-10/4 of 19 December 2022, and in particular goals A.6 to A.8 of the implementation plan and goals A.6 to A.8 and related capacity-building activities of the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,¹

Reiterating the importance of the field of detection and identification of living modified organisms for the Protocol and its relevance and applicability to other fields,

Recognizing that the detection and identification of newly developed [and unauthorized] living modified organisms may pose challenges, in particular for developing countries,

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

[Also recognizing the limited information available on the use of new techniques for detecting and identifying living modified organisms and the limited experience with detecting and identifying newly developed [and unauthorized] living modified organisms,]

Further recognizing the advancements in new techniques for the detection and identification of living modified organisms, such as digital polymerase chain reaction and next-generation sequencing,

Recognizing with concern the high cost of laboratory infrastructure, consumables required for those new techniques and the lack of access to reagents for some developing country Parties,

Confirming that the *Training Manual on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety* (Biosafety Technical Series 05) is still relevant and useful for the detection and identification of living modified organisms,

Recognizing the usefulness of the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms for facilitating the exchange of experience, sharing information and building expertise,

1. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, participants in the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms, developers and other relevant organizations to submit to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity² technical reference materials and publications related to new quantitative polymerase chain reaction techniques, digital polymerase chain reaction, next-generation sequencing and isothermal amplification techniques in order to complement and update in future the *Training Manual on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*;

2. *Invites* Parties to share through the Biosafety Clearing-House their experiences with new detection techniques, such as those for detecting newly developed [and unauthorized] living modified organisms, including those that contain stacked events, [and experiences with developing certified reference materials];

[3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to share and make available through the Biosafety Clearing-House training materials and reference publications;]

4. *Encourages* Parties to establish regional networks of laboratories and partnerships to support activities in the field of detection and identification of living modified organisms, and to promote capacity-building and knowledge-sharing;

5. *Urges* Parties, and invites other Governments and international organizations, to provide financial resources to laboratories, in particular in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States, and in countries with economies in transition, in order to strengthen the infrastructure for the detection and identification of living modified organisms, the formation of regional networks of laboratories, capacity-building activities and the development or acquisition of certified reference materials;

6. *Recommends* that, when adopting its guidance to the Global Environment Facility with regard to support for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Conference of the Parties invite the Global Environment Facility to assist eligible Parties by providing speedy access to the means of implementation at the scale required to cover the scope and speed of the assistance needed, including for strengthening the infrastructure for the detection and identification of living modified organisms, establishing regional networks of laboratories, undertaking capacity-building activities and developing or acquiring certified

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

reference materials, and urges Parties to submit appropriate proposals in that context to the Global Environment Facility to enable support for such activities;

[7. *Encourages* technology developers to share transparently detection and identification methods on newly developed living modified organisms on the Biosafety Clearing-House;]

8. *Requests* that the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources:

(a) Continue to collect publications and technical resource materials in different languages and make them available on the dedicated portal for the sampling, detection and identification of living modified organisms on the Biosafety Clearing-House;

(b) Prepare a compilation of technical reference materials and publications submitted in response to the request in paragraph 1, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its twelfth meeting;

(c) Collaborate with relevant organizations and provide capacity-building support to Parties in the field of detection and identification of living modified organisms, including hands-on training of laboratory personnel on both traditional analytical methods and new detection techniques;

(d) Raise awareness of the sampling, detection and identification portal on the Biosafety Clearing-House [and explore the possibility to link and cross-reference the Biosafety Clearing-House with relevant industry databases.]
