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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 19
Adoption of the report

Draft report of the meeting

Introduction

A. Background

1. The twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was held in Yerevan from 19 to 30 October 2026, concurrently with the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization.

2. The twelfth meeting was preceded by a ceremonial opening, on 18 October 2026, consisting of a cultural presentation and statements[1] by the Prime Minister of Armenia, Nikol Pashinyan; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Ararat Mirzoyan; the Executive Secretary of the Convention, Astrid Schomaker; the Vice-Minister for Environmental Land-Use Planning of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia, David Felipe Olarte Amaya, on behalf of the President of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and the Minister of Environment of Armenia, Hambardzum Matevosyan.

B. Attendance

3. The meeting was attended by [*to be completed*] Parties and [*to be completed*] non-Parties.

Item 1
Opening of the meeting

4. The 1st plenary session was held jointly with those of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, on 19 October 2026.

[1] Statements made during the meeting and submitted in writing by participants are available at www.cbd.int/meetings/CP-MOP-12.

5. The President of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol declared the meeting open at 10.25 a.m. and delivered his opening remarks.[2]

6. Opening remarks were also delivered by the Minister of Environment of Armenia, Hambardzum Matevosyan and the Executive Secretary of the Convention, Astrid Schomaker.[3]

7. The Minister of Ecology and Environment of China and President of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, Huang Runqiu, provided a briefing on the outcome of the Kunming dialogue on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework held a few weeks earlier.[4]

8. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Antigua and Barbuda (on behalf of the Caribbean small island developing States represented at the meetings), Ireland (on behalf of the European Union and its member States), Jamaica (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States), Jordan (on behalf of the Asia-Pacific States), Norway (also on behalf of Australia, Canada, Iceland, Monaco, New Zealand, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Philippines (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the League of Arab States), Senegal (on behalf of the African States) and South Africa (on behalf of the Group of Like-minded Megadiverse Countries).

9. Statements were also made by representatives of Business for Nature, the CBD Alliance, the CBD Women's Caucus, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (also on behalf of Regions4) and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity.

Item 2
Organizational matters

10. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol considered agenda item 2 at its 1st plenary session. It had before it the provisional agenda for the meeting,[5] the annotated provisional agenda[6] and a scenario note.[7]

Election of the President

11. Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 29 of the Cartagena Protocol, the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention also serves as the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. Accordingly, the Minister of Environment of Armenia, who had been elected President of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, also served as the President of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

Election of substitute officers

12. In accordance with rule 21 of the rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, which apply mutatis mutandis under the Cartagena Protocol, 10 vice-presidents had been elected by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth meeting to serve until the closure of the seventeenth meeting. Subsequently, two of the representatives had been replaced by the Parties concerned. In addition, at its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol had elected a substitute Bureau member for the region where the Bureau member represented a Party to the Convention that was not a Party to the Protocol.

[2] See CBD/COP/17/xx, para. [xx], for a summary of the opening remarks.
[3] See CBD/COP/17/xx, para. [yy], for a summary of the opening remarks.
[4] See www.cbd.int/meetings/IMP-OM-2026-02 for the documents of the dialogue.
[5] CBD/CP/MOP/12/1.
[6] CBD/CP/MOP/12/1/Add.1.
[7] CBD/CP/MOP/12/1/Add.2/Rev.1.

The current Bureau for the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol thus comprised the following members, in addition to the President:

Joséphine Thérèse Babette Beyala Epse Eloundou (Cameroon)
Jonas Komi Anthé (Togo)
Bilal Qtishat (Jordan)
Ilham Atho Mohamed (Maldives)
Adla Kahrić (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Bakhromjon Kholkhujaev (Uzbekistan)
Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica)
Valentina Sierra (Uruguay)
Eric Schauls (Luxembourg)
Gaute Hanssen (Norway)

13. It was agreed that Ms. Eloundou would act as Rapporteur for the meeting, as proposed by the Bureau.

14. At its 4th plenary session, on 28 October, in accordance with rule 21 of its rules of procedure, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention elected the following representatives to serve as members of its Bureau for a term of office commencing upon the closure of its seventeenth meeting, and hence as the Bureau for the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol upon the closure of its twelfth meeting:

Ossama Abdelkawy (Egypt)

Malepo Phoshoko (South Africa)

Inge Retnowati (Indonesia)

Mitateti Mote (Kiribati)

Adla Kahrić (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Ditta Greguss (Hungary)

Nneka Nicholas (Antigua and Barbuda)

Patrick Luna (Brazil)

Charlotta Sörqvist (Sweden)

Holly Kelley-Weil (United Kingdom)

15. At its 4th plenary session, on 28 October, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties noted that all those elected represented Parties that were also party to the Cartagena Protocol, hence there was no need to elect substitute members for the Bureau for the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

16. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the Bureau:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters.
3. Report on the credentials of representatives to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol.

4. Reports of subsidiary bodies.
5. Report of the Compliance Committee.
6. Administration of the Cartagena Protocol and budget for the trust funds.
7. Monitoring and reporting.
8. Assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol and midterm evaluation of the implementation plan and capacity-building action plan for the Protocol.
9. Matters related to the financial mechanism and resources.
10. Operation and activities of the Biosafety Clearing-House.
11. Cooperation with international organizations, bodies established under other conventions, and initiatives.
12. Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols.
13. Risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms.
14. Detection and identification of living modified organisms.
15. Socioeconomic considerations.
16. National legislation, regulations and guidelines on new developments in modern biotechnology.
17. Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress.
18. Other matters.
19. Adoption of the report.
20. Closure of the meeting.

Organization of work

17. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol agreed to organize its work as set out in annex III to the scenario note and to establish two working groups. Working Group I would be chaired by Gaute Hanssen (Norway) and Working Group II by Hesiquio Benítez Díaz (Mexico).

Work of sessional working groups

18. [to be completed]

First stocktake session

19. The 3rd plenary session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, on 23 October, served in part as a stocktake session held jointly with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol. During the stocktake session, the Chairs of Working Group I, Working Group II and the contact group on budgetary matters reported on the progress made to date.

Second stocktake session

20. The 4th plenary session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol served in part as a stocktake session held jointly with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

21. The session began with a minute of silence to mark the passing of Martha Kandawa-Schulz (Namibia) on 23 October in Yerevan.

22. Following a cultural presentation by a group of young biodiversity ambassadors from South Africa, representatives heard a report from the President on the outcomes of the high-level segment, as well as reports by the Chairs of Working Group I, Working Group II and the contact group on budgetary matters on the progress made to date.

Item 3
Report on the credentials of representatives to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol

23. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol considered agenda item 3 at its 1st plenary session. An information document on the admission of qualified bodies and agencies to the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Protocols[8] had been issued in relation to item 3.

24. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol noted that, in accordance with the relevant rules of its rules of procedure, the Bureau had reviewed the list of observers admitted to the meeting and would examine the credentials of delegations and report thereon at a later session. It also noted that the Bureau had designated Ilham Atho Mohamed (Maldives) as its representative for the review of credentials.

25. At the 3rd plenary session Ms. Mohamed reported that 154 Parties to the Protocol were registered as attending the meeting. Representatives of 102 registered Parties had submitted credentials in full compliance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure, while representatives of 28 registered Parties had submitted credentials that were not fully compliant. Representatives of 24 registered Parties had not yet submitted credentials.

26. At the 4th plenary session, Ms. Mohamed reported that 161 Parties to the Protocol were registered as attending the meeting. Representatives of 115 registered Parties had submitted credentials in full compliance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure, while representatives of 26 registered Parties had submitted credentials that were not fully compliant. Representatives of 20 registered Parties had not yet submitted credentials.

27. [to be completed]

Item 4
Reports of subsidiary bodies

28. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol considered agenda item 4 at its 1st plenary session. It had before it the following reports on intersessional work undertaken by various bodies since its fifth meeting: the report of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on its twenty-seventh meeting[9] and the reports of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation on its sixth and seventh meetings.[10]

29. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol heard oral reports from the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, the Rapporteur of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and a representative of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

[8] CBD/CP/MOP/12/INF/10.
[9] CBD/SBSTTA/27/10.
[10] CBD/SBI/6/11 and CBD/SBI/7/16, respectively.

30. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol took note of the information provided and agreed to consider the recommendations of the subsidiary bodies in the working groups, under the relevant agenda items.

Item 5
Report of the Compliance Committee

31. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol considered agenda item 5 at its 1st plenary session. It had before it a draft decision[11] and the report of the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol on the work of its twentieth and twenty-first meetings.[12]

32. The Chair of the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol presented the report of the Compliance Committee on the work of its twentieth and twenty-first meetings.

33. In accordance with the organization of work, substantive matters arising from the report were referred to Working Group II for consideration.

34. [placeholder]

35. At its 3rd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol considered draft decision CBD/CP/MOP/12/L.2, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II, and adopted it as decision CP-12/X.

36. At its 4th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol elected the following members of the Compliance Committee for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2027:

Hèla Msabhi (Tunisia)

Achmad Gusman Siswandi (Indonesia)

Teele Jairus-Pähno (Estonia)

Luciana Pimenta Ambrozevicius (Brazil)

Michelangelo Lombardo (Italy)

Item 6
Administration of the Cartagena Protocol and budget for the trust funds

37. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol considered agenda item 6 at its 2nd plenary session, on 19 October. It had before it a draft decision[13] and notes by the Secretariat on the administration of the Convention and its Protocols for the biennium 2025–2026,[14] the proposed budget for the programmes of work of the Convention and its Protocols for the biennium 2027–2028,[15] the requirements for the trust fund for additional voluntary contributions in support of approved activities[16] and additional information on administrative and budgetary matters.[17] An information document on the participation of eligible Parties and the composition of funded delegations[18] had also been issued in relation to item 6.

[11] CBD/CP/MOP/12/2, item 5.
[12] CBD/CP/MOP/12/3.
[13] CBD/CP/MOP/12/2, item 6.
[14] CBD/CP/MOP/12/4.
[15] CBD/CP/MOP/12/5.
[16] CBD/CP/MOP/12/5/Add.1
[17] CBD/CP/MOP/12/5/Add.2.
[18] CBD/CP/MOP/12/INF/9.

38. The Executive Secretary reported on the activities of the Secretariat and presented the proposed budget for the programmes of work of the Convention and its Protocols for the biennium 2027–2028.

39. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention, also serving as the meetings of the Parties to the Protocols, established a contact group on budgetary matters, chaired by Gillian Guthrie (Jamaica), with the mandate to consider the proposed budget for the biennium 2027–2028 in detail.

40. [to be completed]

Item 7
Monitoring and reporting

41. [to be completed from the Working Group II report]

42. At its 3rd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol considered draft decision CBD/CP/MOP/12/L.6, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II, and adopted it as decision CP-12/X.

Item 8
Assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol and midterm evaluation of the implementation plan and capacity-building action plan for the Protocol

43. [to be completed from the Working Group II report]

44. At its 4th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol considered draft decision CBD/CP/MOP/12/L.10, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II, and adopted it as decision CP-12/X.

Item 9
Matters related to the financial mechanism and resources

45. [to be completed from the Working Group II report]

46. At its 3rd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol considered draft decision CBD/CP/MOP/12/L.9, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II.

47. A statement was made by a representative of the United Republic of Tanzania.

48. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision CP-12/X.

Item 10
Operation and activities of the Biosafety Clearing-House

49. [to be completed from the Working Group II report]

50. At its 3rd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol considered draft decision CBD/CP/MOP/12/L.5, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II.

51. The President provided an oral correction to the draft decision.

52. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision CP-12/X.

Item 11
Cooperation with international organizations, bodies established under other conventions, and initiatives

53. [to be completed]

Item 12
Review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols

54. [to be completed]

Item 13
Risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms

55. [to be completed from the Working Group II report]

56. At its 4th plenary session, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol considered draft decision CBD/CP/MOP/12/L.11, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II.

57. Statements were made by representatives of Mexico and Panama.

58. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision CP-12/x.

Item 14
Detection and identification of living modified organisms

59. [to be completed from the Working Group II report]

60. At its 3rd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol considered draft decision CBD/CP/MOP/12/L.7, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II, and adopted it as decision CP-12/X.

Item 15
Socioeconomic considerations

61. [to be completed from the Working Group II report]

62. At its 3rd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol considered draft decision CBD/CP/MOP/12/L.4, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II, and adopted it as decision CP-12/X.

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

63. [to be completed from the Working Group II report]

64. At its 3rd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol considered draft decision CBD/CP/MOP/12/L.8, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II.

65. Statements were made by representatives of the following Parties: Brazil, European Union and its member States, Nigeria and Panama.

66. Following the exchange of views, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol adopted the decision, as orally amended, as decision CP-12/X.

Item 17
Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress

67. [to be completed from the Working Group II report]

68. At its 3rd plenary session, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol considered draft decision CBD/CP/MOP/12/L.3, submitted by the Chair of Working Group II.

69. The President provided oral corrections to the draft decision.

70. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol adopted the draft decision, as orally amended, as decision CP-12/X.

Item 18
Other matters

71. [to be completed]

Item 19
Adoption of the report

72. [to be completed]

Item 20
Closure of the meeting

73. [to be completed]