



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

CBD/CP/LG/2019/1/2
9 August 2019

ENGLISH ONLY

LIAISON GROUP ON THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

Thirteenth meeting
Montreal, Canada, 22-25 October 2019

OVERVIEW OF POST-2020 PROCESSES AND INTERSESSIONAL WORKPLAN FOR THE LIAISON GROUP ON THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. As outlined in the annotated agenda for this meeting ([CBD/CP/LG/2019/1/1/Add.1](#)), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fourteenth meeting and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at its the ninth meeting adopted a number of decisions addressing work to be done in preparation for the post-2020 period.
2. In addition and largely distinct from the post-2020 processes, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at its ninth meeting also adopted a decision setting out the process for conducting the fourth assessment and review of the Protocol and the final evaluation of the [Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020](#). The decision provides that the Liaison Group will play a key role in the process.
3. The present document provides a succinct overview of the different processes in which the Liaison Group will be involved and possible linkages between them, and aims to facilitate the discussions on the specific post-2020 processes under subsequent agenda items. The document will be complemented by a presentation by the Secretariat during the thirteenth meeting of the Liaison Group.
4. Section II of the document contains an overview of relevant post-2020 processes under both the Convention and the Protocol. This includes a summary of key decisions from the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol as well as an update on the current status of these processes. Section III presents an overview of the process for the fourth assessment and review of the Protocol and the final evaluation of the Strategic Plan for the Protocol. Section IV presents some conclusions.

II. OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT POST-2020 PROCESSES

5. The summary that follows provides a general overview of the post-2020 processes relevant to biosafety and the work of the Liaison Group. The different processes are presented in the order in which they will be addressed according to the provisional agenda for the thirteenth meeting of the Liaison Group.

A. Post-2020 Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

6. In decision [CP-9/7](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol decided to develop a specific post-2020 implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety that is anchored in and complementary to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate the development of its elements.
7. The decision provided for a participatory process for the development of the post-2020 Implementation Plan. To date, a draft implementation plan was prepared by the Executive Secretary on the

basis of the views received through submissions, and online discussions were convened to provide feedback on the draft implementation plan.

8. The decision assigns a central role to the Liaison Group in the development of the post-2020 implementation plan. More specifically, under agenda item 4 for this meeting, the Liaison Group is to review the draft implementation plan that has been revised following the online discussions. The document for that item (CBD/CP/LG/2019/1/3) provides more details on the process for developing the draft implementation plan as well as a number of areas for further consideration by the Liaison Group.

9. Following this meeting, the draft implementation plan is to be made available for peer review. Decision CP-9/7 provides that the final draft of the implementation plan is to be submitted for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting. The Subsidiary Body is to review the draft Implementation Plan and prepare a recommendation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its tenth meeting.

B. Action plan for capacity-building for implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress

10. In decision [CP-9/3](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol acknowledged the need for a specific action plan for capacity-building for implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and the Supplementary Protocol that is aligned with the post-2020 implementation plan for the Protocol and complementary to the long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020 (see sect. D below). It may be noted that the decision largely reflects the conclusions emanating from the previous meeting of the Liaison Group.

11. The decision set out a number of steps for the process of developing the post-2020 action plan for capacity-building and included an indicative schedule of activities. In addition, decision CP-9/11 invited Parties to submit views, among other things, on their capacities and needs with regard to detection and identification of living modified organisms, and requested the Executive Secretary to reflect the information submitted in the post-2020 capacity-building action plan, as appropriate.

12. To date, views have been submitted pursuant to decision CP-9/3, and a survey has been undertaken to collect information pursuant to decision CP-9/11.

13. Decision CP-9/3 also assigns a central role to the Liaison Group in the development of the post-2020 action plan for capacity-building. More specifically, at this meeting, the Liaison Group is to contribute to the development of a draft action plan for capacity-building. Under agenda item 5 for this meeting, the Liaison Group will consider a note by the Executive Secretary (CBD/CP/LG/2019/1/4) which provides more details on the process for developing the draft action plan for capacity-building, summarizes relevant information and contains preliminary suggestions for the action plan.

14. At its next meeting, the Liaison Group is to review a draft of the action plan for capacity-building, taking into account information in the fourth national reports on the implementation of the Protocol.

15. Following the fourteenth meeting of the Liaison Group, the indicative schedule of activities in decision CP-9/3 foresees that there will be an invitation to submit views on the final draft action plan for capacity-building, after which the final draft action plan will be considered by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting and subsequently by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its tenth meeting.

16. In the light of the additional information on the calendar of meetings, which is now better defined than when decision CP-9/3 was adopted, and also to assist in ensuring that the post-2020 action plan for capacity-building is aligned with the implementation plan, document CBD/CP/LG/2019/1/4 provides suggestions on the way forward, including possible adjustments to the indicative schedule of activities in decision CP-9/3.

C. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework

17. In decision [14/34](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention adopted the preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and decided to establish an open-

ended intersessional working group to support the preparation of the framework. In a number of other decisions adopted at the fourteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties identified different aspects to be addressed as part of the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including resource mobilization, knowledge management and communications. An overview of relevant decisions is provided in a discussion paper issued by the Secretariat on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.¹

18. In decision CP-9/7, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol welcomed decision 14/34 and stressed the importance of including biosafety in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

19. The first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework was held in Nairobi from 27 to 30 August. Two additional meetings of the Working Group are planned: in Kunming, China, from 24 to 28 February 2020 and in Cali, Colombia, from 27 to 31 July 2020. A number of other consultations and workshops to support the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework are also foreseen as set out in annex II to the report of the Working Group on its first meeting (CBD/WG2020/1/5).

20. The Global Consultation Workshop on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Biosafety and the Cartagena Protocol was held in Nairobi on 25 August 2019, immediately prior to the first meeting of the Working Group.

21. The Liaison Group will discuss the development of the biosafety component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework under agenda item 6 of this meeting. The document for that item (CBD/CP/LG/2019/1/5) will draw on the submissions received in this regard, the outcomes of the first meeting of the Working Group and the biosafety global consultation workshop to provide suggestions for consideration by the Liaison Group.

D. Long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020

22. In decision 14/24, the Conference of the Parties decided on a process for the development of a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020. The process includes: (a) submissions of information; (b) the commissioning of a study to provide a knowledge base for the preparation of the long-term strategic framework; (c) an independent evaluation of the impacts, outcomes and effectiveness of the 2017-2020 short-term action plan; and (d) the convening of consultative workshops and online discussions.

23. A team of consultants has been engaged to conduct the study to develop the knowledge base. Biosafety experts have been included in this work, and a draft of the study should be available shortly. Online discussions are planned, and a thematic consultation on capacity-building is foreseen to be held back-to-back with the second meeting of the post-2020 Working Group.

24. At this meeting, the Liaison Group is to contribute to the development of the draft long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020, as appropriate. Under agenda item 7, the Secretariat will make a presentation providing further information on the process.

III. FOURTH ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW OF THE PROTOCOL AND FINAL EVALUATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE PROTOCOL

25. Article 35 of the Protocol provides that, every five years, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol shall undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Protocol.

26. In decision CP-9/6, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol decided that the fourth assessment and review of the Protocol would be combined with the final evaluation of the Strategic Plan for the Protocol. It also set out the steps towards the fourth assessment and review of the Protocol and the final evaluation of the Strategic Plan as follows:

¹ See [CBD/POST2020/PREP/1/1](#), section II.

(a) The Executive Secretary is to analyse and synthesize information on the implementation of the Protocol using, *inter alia*, the fourth national reports as a primary source, the Biosafety Clearing-House and experience from capacity-building projects and the Compliance Committee, where appropriate;

(b) The Executive Secretary is to make this information available to the Liaison Group and, as appropriate, the Compliance Committee;

(c) The Liaison Group and the Compliance Committee are to work in a complementary and non-duplicative manner to contribute to the fourth assessment and review of the Protocol and final evaluation of the Strategic Plan and submit their conclusions for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation;

(d) At its third meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation is to consider the information provided and conclusions reached by the Liaison Group and the Compliance Committee and to submit its findings and recommendations to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its tenth meeting.

27. The fourth national reports on the implementation of the Protocol are due on 1 October 2019. In order to ensure that a sufficient number of national reports are available to undertake an analysis that is representative of the current state of implementation, it is expected that work on the analysis and synthesis will take place at the end of 2019 and in early 2020 to enable consideration of this matter by the Liaison Group at its fourteenth meeting and the Compliance Committee at its seventeenth meeting.

28. At its sixteenth meeting (May 2019), the Compliance Committee decided that the scope of its input to the assessment and review and final evaluation of the Strategic Plan would focus on operational objective 3.1 of the Strategic Plan and the experience that the Committee had gained in implementing its supportive role of assisting Parties in complying with their obligations. This follows the approach taken for the third assessment and review of the Protocol and mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan.

29. Accordingly, the Liaison Group would focus on the other operational objectives and any other aspects. More information will be provided to the Liaison Group at its fourteenth meeting.

IV. CONCLUSION

30. Given the nature of the deliberations at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, in many instances, there was no opportunity to consider the big picture of the different workflows being developed in the different decisions and how they might fit together. In addition, much more information is now available on the 2019-2020 calendar of activities and meetings, in particular the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, which has helped to clarify at what point biosafety inputs on post-2020 are needed.

31. In this light, the Secretariat is endeavouring to reconcile the different workflows in a logical and coherent manner that facilitates the completion of the activities that have been requested. As a result and as mentioned in section II above, some adjustments to the steps in the post-2020 processes for biosafety are foreseen. These adjustments are in line with the annex to decision CP-9/3, which provides for the possibility of aligning the activities set out in the annex with the timetable for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

32. The adjustments include combining the peer review of the draft implementation plan and the capacity-building action plan, providing the Liaison Group with the opportunity to review both the draft Implementation Plan and the capacity-building action plan again at its fourteenth meeting, and including an item on the agenda for the Liaison Group to review, at its fourteenth meeting, as needed, the draft biosafety component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework following the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group. More information on the rationale for the suggested changes is provided in the documents for agenda items 5 and 6, and the Liaison Group may wish to discuss these suggestions under the specific agenda item to which they pertain.