



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
Item 7 of the provisional agenda*
Monitoring and reporting

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Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Under Article 33 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Parties are required to monitor the implementation of their obligations under the Protocol and, at intervals to be determined by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, to report on measures that they have taken to implement the Protocol.
2. In its decision [CP-9/5](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol accepted the invitation contained in decision [14/27](#) of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and decided to have a synchronized reporting cycle commencing in 2023. In decision [15/6](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention requested Parties to submit their seventh national report by 28 February 2026. In decision [CP-10/9](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol requested Parties to submit their fifth national report at the same time as the seventh national reports under the Convention were due. Accordingly, the fifth national reports on the implementation of the Protocol were due by 28 February 2026.
3. The present document contains an update on the submission of fifth national reports (sect. II), information on the preparation for the sixth national reports (sect. III) and elements of a draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (sect. IV).

II. Submission of fifth national reports

A. Preparatory process

4. In its decision [CP-10/9](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol welcomed the draft format for the fifth national report on the implementation of the Protocol and requested the Executive Secretary to make any necessary adjustments to the questions in the format in the light of the final text of the indicators of the implementation plan for the Protocol and to make the final format available online through the Biosafety Clearing-House. It requested

* [CBD/CP/MOP/12/1](#).

Parties to submit their fifth national reports in an official language of the United Nations through the Biosafety Clearing-House.

5. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary finalized the reporting format and made it available through the Biosafety Clearing-House in July 2024. Through notification No. [2024-073](#), dated 15 July 2024, the Executive Secretary invited Parties to submit their fifth national report through the Biosafety Clearing-House by 28 February 2026. A reminder was issued in January 2026 through notification No. [2026-002](#).

6. The Secretariat developed materials to support the preparation and submission of the report, including frequently asked questions and step-by-step instructions, which were made available in the six official languages of the United Nations. In addition, an instructional video on how to submit the fifth national report through the Biosafety Clearing-House was prepared by the Secretariat to further support the process. Information about the availability of those materials was shared through notification No. [2026-002](#).

7. Through its decision [16/33](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention requested the Global Environment Facility to make funds available in a timely manner to support eligible Parties in preparing and submitting their fifth national reports. Through notification No. [2024-073](#), dated 15 July 2024, the Executive Secretary informed Parties that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was preparing a project for funding by the Facility to assist eligible Parties in the preparation of their fifth national report. The Executive Secretary encouraged eligible Parties to submit a letter of endorsement to UNEP, signed by their operational focal point for the Facility, expressing their support for the project. This was further to decision [CP-10/9](#), in which the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol urged eligible Parties to submit their letters of commitment to the implementing agency in a timely manner to ensure that projects to support the preparation of fifth national reports could be submitted to the Facility for approval well before the deadline for the submission of the reports.

8. Project No. 11907 of the Global Environment Facility, on support for the preparation of fifth national reports, was approved for implementation in April 2025, with 105 eligible Parties participating.

9. As at 31 March 2026, 75 of the Parties in the project had received at least one disbursement of funds under the project for the preparation of their fifth national report.

10. The project activities included a global inception workshop, which was held online in August 2025, and a series of in-person regional workshops to provide technical support to Parties on the drafting of national reports. UNEP, the secretariat of the Global Environment Facility and the Secretariat of the Convention collaborated on organizing and delivering the regional workshops, which were held between November 2025 and January 2026. A staff member from the Secretariat of the Convention who is familiar with the Protocol and the Biosafety Clearing-House participated in each workshop, delivering presentations on national reporting and providing practical training and support on publishing the report through the Biosafety Clearing-House. Never before had workshops been included among the activities under such a project to support national reporting.

11. As part of the project, a consultant hired by UNEP also provided help desk services to Parties by responding to questions, and followed up with them on the submission of their reports.

B. Submission of national reports

12. As at 16 July 2026, 137 of the 173 Parties to the Protocol had submitted their fifth national report through the Biosafety Clearing-House, which is a submission rate of 79 per cent. In addition, one non-Party to the Protocol also submitted a report.

13. The regional breakdown of the reports submitted is presented in the table below.

Regional breakdown of fifth national reports submitted by Parties to the Cartagena Protocol

<i>Region</i>	<i>Parties that submitted their report by 28 February 2026</i>		<i>Parties that submitted their report by 16 July 2026</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
African States	39	76	42	82
Asia-Pacific States	24	51	32	68
Latin American and Caribbean States	21	70	23	77
Eastern European States	17	77	20	91
Western European and other States	18	85	20	95
Total	119	69	137	79

C. Compliance Committee review of compliance by Parties with the obligation to report

14. The Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol, at its twenty-first meeting, held from 10 to 12 June 2026, reviewed compliance by Parties with the obligation to submit national reports.¹

15. The Committee noted with appreciation the high number of Parties that had submitted their fifth national reports by the reporting deadline of 28 February 2026 (119 Parties, or 69 per cent).

16. The Committee welcomed the efforts by the Secretariat to support Parties in the preparation and submission of their national reports, including by developing help materials. The Committee also welcomed the in-person regional workshops organized and delivered by UNEP, the Global Environment Facility and the Secretariat to provide technical support for the drafting of national reports to eligible Parties included in the Facility project mentioned in paragraph 8 above. The Committee expressed its appreciation to the Facility for providing the financial support for the project and its ongoing activities. It considered ways in which support for future reporting could be strengthened, including by making support available further in advance of the reporting deadline.

17. The Committee recognized the benefits of synchronized reporting for sharing information under the Convention and its Protocols, while acknowledging that the submission of the different reports on the same date posed challenges for many Parties, in particular for Parties with limited human resource capacities.²

18. The Committee requested the Secretariat to continue to follow up with Parties that had not yet submitted their fifth national report and requested the Chair of the Committee to write to any Parties that, by 30 November 2026, had not submitted their fifth national report.

19. The Committee made several recommendations to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, as presented in annex I to the report of the Compliance Committee on its twentieth and twenty-first meetings.³ The recommendations have been incorporated into the elements of a draft decision below.

¹ The full report of the Committee on the work of its meeting is in document [CBD/CP/CC/21/5](#), paras. 19–28 of which concern the obligation to submit national reports.

² Similarly, in its contribution to the fifth assessment and review of the Protocol and midterm evaluation of the implementation plan and capacity-building action plan for the Protocol, the Liaison Group on the Protocol recognized that synchronized reporting among the Convention and its Protocols had some benefits but that there were also challenges with the three reports being due at the same date (see the annex to document [CBD/CP/LG/15/3](#)).

³ [CBD/CP/MOP/12/3](#).

III. Preparation for the sixth national reports

20. In its decision [15/6](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention decided that the eighth national report under the Convention would be due by 30 June 2029. Accordingly, the sixth national report under the Cartagena Protocol would also be due by 30 June 2029. The draft format for the sixth national report should therefore be considered by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its thirteenth meeting, in 2028.

21. Among the elements of a draft decision below is a request to the Executive Secretary to prepare the format for the sixth national report. In question 176 of the format for the fifth national report, Parties were invited to provide information on any difficulties encountered in completing the report and to offer suggestions for improving the reporting format. The comments provided by Parties in response can be taken into account in preparing the format for the sixth national reports, while bearing in mind the need to maintain continuity in the questions in order to facilitate the measurement of progress against the indicators in the implementation plan for the Protocol.

IV. Elements of a draft decision

22. The first three operative paragraphs of the elements of a draft decision set out below for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol are recommendations from the Compliance Committee. A paragraph on guidance to the Global Environment Facility to provide financial support for the preparation of the sixth national reports will be included in the draft decision under the agenda item on matters related to the financial mechanism and resources, further to recommendation 7/5 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.⁴

23. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol may wish to adopt elements of a decision along the following lines:

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

Recalling Article 33 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety⁵ and its decision [CP-10/9](#) of 10 December 2022, in which it requested Parties to submit to the Secretariat their fifth national report on the implementation of the Protocol,

1. *Welcomes* the fact that more than two thirds of Parties submitted their fifth national reports on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol by the reporting deadline;

2. *Reminds* Parties that have not yet submitted their fifth national reports to do so as soon as possible through the Biosafety Clearing-House;

3. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Environment Programme for the support provided to eligible Parties for the preparation and submission of their fifth national reports;

4. *Notes* that the sixth national reports will be due by 30 June 2029;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to prepare the format for the sixth national report, taking into account the comments provided by Parties in the fifth national reports, while maintaining continuity in the questions in order to facilitate the measurement of progress against the indicators in the implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol,⁶ and submit the format for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting.

⁴ See the draft decision under agenda item 9 in the compilation of draft decisions (CBD/CP/MOP/12/2).

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

⁶ Decision [CP-10/3](#), annex.