



Convention on Biological Diversity

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ENGLISH ONLY

INFORMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE

Twelfth meeting
Montreal, Canada, 15 and 16 May 2023

Annotated provisional agenda

Introduction

1. The Biosafety Clearing-House is established under Article 20 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity as part of the clearing-house mechanism under Article 18, paragraph 3, of the Convention in order to: (a) facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on, and experience with, living modified organisms; and (b) assist Parties to implement the Protocol.
2. In its decision [BS-I/3](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety adopted the modalities of operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House. Section E of the modalities provides that the Secretariat may seek assistance from an informal advisory committee, constituted and coordinated by the Executive Secretary in a transparent manner, with a particular focus on providing guidance with respect to resolution of technical issues associated with the ongoing development of the Biosafety Clearing-House.
3. In accordance with the modalities of operation, the Acting Executive Secretary is convening the twelfth meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee to review the progress made since its eleventh meeting and to seek further guidance on a number of areas, including on improving the functionality of the Biosafety Clearing-House platform.
4. The meeting will be held in person at the office of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Montreal, Canada, on 15 and 16 May 2023.

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

5. The meeting will be opened by the Acting Executive Secretary or his representative at 9 a.m. on 15 May 2023.

Item 2. Organizational matters

2.1. Election of officers

6. The participants will be invited to elect a chair for the meeting.

2.2. Adoption of the agenda

7. The participants will be invited to adopt the agenda for the meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat (CBD/CP/BCH-IAC/12/1).

2.3. Organization of work

8. The participants will be invited to consider the proposed organization of work as contained in annex I. The meeting will be conducted in English.

Item 3. Status of the Biosafety Clearing-House: latest developments and current and planned activities

9. At its eleventh meeting, held from 1 to 4 December 2020, the Informal Advisory Committee adopted a number of recommendations for the Secretariat, including the continuation of the migration process to its completion and the launch of the new Biosafety Clearing-House platform even if the function for hosting online forums was not yet available and parts of the platform other than the common formats were available in English only.

10. The Secretariat will provide an update on the efforts made towards completing the migration of the Biosafety Clearing-House to its new platform and its launch, which took place in November 2021. The Secretariat will also report on the status of and actions taken with respect to the other recommendations adopted at the eleventh meeting (see CBD/CP/BCH-IAC/12/2, sect. I).

11. The Secretariat will also provide an overview of the work carried out on the Biosafety Clearing-House since the launch of the new platform and of the status of various activities envisaged for the current intersessional period. The overview will include presentations by the Secretariat on new features and aspects of the platform (see CBD/CP/BCH-IAC/12/2, sect. I).

12. The Informal Advisory Committee will be invited to discuss and provide feedback on the work carried out to date and the next steps envisaged in the further development and migration of the Biosafety Clearing-House.

Item 4. Decisions adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol relating to the Biosafety Clearing-House

13. A number of processes that involve the Biosafety Clearing-House are planned in furtherance of the decisions adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol.

14. The Secretariat will provide an update on the status of the knowledge management component of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention by its decision [15/4](#) and the implications of Target 17 of the Framework for the Biosafety Clearing-House, as well as on how the Biosafety Clearing-House has been addressed in the Implementation Plan and the Capacity-building Action Plan for the Protocol adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol by its decisions [CP-10/3](#) and [CP-10/4](#), respectively (see CBD/CP/BCH-IAC/12/2, sect. II).

Item 5. Collaboration on the United Nations Environment Programme-Global Environment Facility Biosafety Clearing-House III Capacity-Building Project

15. In its decision [CP-10/5](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety welcomed the successful implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme-Global Environment Facility Biosafety Clearing-House III Capacity-Building Project.

16. A representative of the Project will make a presentation on the status of activities carried out under the Project and its plans for the future. Information will also be provided on collaborative activities undertaken by the Project and the Secretariat (see CBD/CP/BCH-IAC/12/2, sect. III).

17. The members of the Informal Advisory Committee will be invited to share their views and provide feedback on the matter.

Item 6. Collaboration with biosafety-related organizations

18. At its eleventh meeting, the Informal Advisory Committee adopted a recommendation to continue to collaborate and explore possibilities for facilitating information-sharing among the Biosafety Clearing-House, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) databases and other relevant databases in the longer term. In its decision [CP-10/5](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety also welcomed the collaborative activities undertaken in relation to the biosafety databases of the three entities.

19. The Secretariat will make a presentation on the status of collaborative activities undertaken in relation to various organization and biosafety-related databases (see CBD/CP/BCH-IAC/12/2, sect. IV).

20. Representatives of FAO, OECD, CropLife International and the European GMO Initiative for a Unified Database System will be invited to provide a brief presentation on their activities related to the Biosafety Clearing-House.

21. The members of the Informal Advisory Committee will be invited to share their views and provide feedback on the matter.

Item 7. Other matters

22. The members of the Informal Advisory Committee will be invited to raise any relevant issues not addressed under the other items.

Item 8. Conclusions and recommendations

23. The members of the Informal Advisory Committee will be invited to make their final remarks and recommendations to the Secretariat with respect to the work on the Biosafety Clearing-House.

Item 9. Adoption of the report

24. The Informal Advisory Committee will consider and adopt the report on the work of its twelfth meeting.

Item 10. Closure of the meeting

25. The meeting is expected to close at 5 p.m. on 16 May 2023.

*Annex I***Proposed organization of work**

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
Monday, 15 May 2023	
8.30–9 a.m.	Registration
9–10.15 a.m.	Item 1. Opening of the meeting
	Item 2. Organizational matters: 2.1. Election of officers 2.2. Adoption of the agenda 2.3. Organization of work
	Item 3. Status of the Biosafety Clearing-House: latest developments and current and planned activities
10.15–10.45 a.m.	Coffee break (provided)
10.45 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>)
12.30–1.30 p.m.	Lunch (provided)
1.30–3.30 p.m.	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>)
3.30–4 p.m.	Coffee break (provided)
4–5 p.m.	Item 3 (<i>continued</i>)
5–6 p.m.	Item 4. Decisions adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol relating to the Biosafety Clearing-House
Tuesday, 16 May 2023	
9–10.15 a.m.	Item 5. Collaboration on the United Nations Environment Programme-Global Environment Facility Biosafety Clearing-House III Capacity-Building project
10.15–10.45 a.m.	Coffee break (provided)
10.45 a.m.–12.30 p.m.	Item 6. Collaboration with biosafety-related organizations
12.30–1.30 p.m.	Lunch (provided)
1.30–3 p.m.	Item 6 (<i>continued</i>)

	Item 7. Other matters
3–3.30 p.m.	Coffee break (provided)
3–5 p.m.	Item 8. Conclusions and recommendations
	Item 9. Adoption of the report
	Item 10. Closure of the meeting

Annex II

List of documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
CBD/CP/BCH-IAC/12/1	Provisional agenda
CBD/CP/BCH-IAC/12/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
CBD/CP/BCH-IAC/12/2	Report on the Biosafety Clearing-House
