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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

Tenth meeting – Part II

Montreal, Canada, 7-19 December 2022

Agenda item 11

OPERATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) was established by Article 20 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety as part of the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The purpose of the BCH is (a) to facilitate the exchange of scientific, technical, environmental and legal information on, and experience with, living modified organisms (LMOs); and (b) to assist Parties in implementing the Protocol. The central portal of the BCH is accessible online at <http://bch.cbd.int>.
2. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (MOP), in its decision [CP-9/2](#), requested the Executive Secretary to undertake a number of activities regarding the implementation and operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House, focusing in particular on the migration of the BCH to its new platform which had originally been requested in decision [CP-VIII/2](#). Many improvements to the BCH have been incorporated as part of the migration process, based on recommendations from the Informal Advisory Committee on the Biosafety Clearing-House. Cooperation with other organizations has also largely been framed in the context of the migration.
3. The present note, in section II, provides information on the BCH migration, progress made and status to date. Section III provides an overview of the eleventh meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on the Biosafety Clearing-House. Section IV describes the status of the information submitted to the BCH. Section V presents information on the collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme - Global Environment Facility (UNEP-GEF) “Project for sustainable capacity-building for effective participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House” (BCH III Project). Section VI describes the status of collaboration with other biosafety-related international organizations. Section VII describes post-2020 processes and the BCH. Section VIII provides an overview of the priorities for the future implementation of the BCH.
4. Finally, section IX contains suggested elements for a draft decision on the operation and activities of the BCH for consideration by the Conference of Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its tenth meeting.

II. MIGRATION OF THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE

A. Background to the migration

5. At its eighth meeting (2016), in decision CP-VIII/2, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP) requested the Executive Secretary to undertake a number of tasks on the BCH, including carrying out the full migration of the BCH to its new platform and to send to the BCH focal points a chronogram detailing the migration and follow-up processes.

6. As described in the document on the BCH prepared for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (document CBD/CP/MOP/9/4), preparatory work for the migration of the BCH was initiated in the 2017-2018 intersessional period. It was not possible to complete the migration in that time, however, due to the limited resources available at the Secretariat in both the Biosafety Unit and the Information Technology (IT) Unit.

7. In decision CP-9/2, adopted at its ninth meeting (2018), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol noted with concern that important activities requested in decision CP-VIII/2 had not been undertaken and requested the Executive Secretary, as a matter of priority, to act upon the requests in decision CP-VIII/2 and, in particular and among other things, to (a) allocate adequate and specific resources, both human and financial, for the management, improvement and maintenance of the BCH; (b) complete the migration of the BCH to its new platform and to continue collaborating with other biosafety databases and platforms; and (c) to continue making improvements to the central portal of the BCH and following up on the recommendations of the Informal Advisory Committee on the Biosafety Clearing-House at its tenth meeting.

8. At its ninth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol also endorsed the joint modalities of operation for the clearing-house mechanism (CHM) of the Convention, the Biosafety Clearing-House and the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House (ABS Clearing-House) as contained in the annex to decision 14/25 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. The purpose of the joint modalities of operation is to ensure consistency among the platforms and to strengthen coherence and integration among the three clearing-houses managed by the Secretariat, while preserving the specific functionalities unique to each clearing-house. In this regard, the joint modalities of operation needed to be taken into account during the migration process.

9. The original BCH had been built over 20 years of activity of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In terms of information technology, these 20 years constituted a huge leap in technology and database infrastructure development. This made the BCH migration an incredibly complex endeavor with many interlinking layers and aspects that required careful consideration.

10. After the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, work on the migration of the BCH to the new platform was able to advance due to the filling of the post of the Programme Assistant for the BCH in January 2019 and the allocation of a dedicated Information Technology Officer to work on the migration full time. A temporary Programme Management Officer for the BCH was hired with voluntary funds and the new officer started in June 2021. However, a core position would be needed to ensure the sustainability of this function within the Secretariat.

B. Process undertaken toward the migration

11. As requested in decision CP-VIII/2 and indicated in paragraph 5 above, the Executive Secretary prepared a chronogram detailing the necessary steps to completing the migration process. The chronogram¹ was shared with focal points for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the BCH through notification [2019-063](#) issued on 25 July 2019. A detailed overview of each activity identified in the chronogram, including key developments on the new platform of the BCH is available in information document CBD/CP/MOP/10/INF/7.

¹ https://bch.cbd.int/forum/bchonbch/chronogram_bch_migration.doc.

12. The migration of the BCH to its new platform was a substantial endeavor that required the complete redesign and recoding of the previous platform. The new BCH offers a user-friendly interface that is consistent with current web design standards as well as features and aesthetic similar to the CHM and the ABS Clearing-House, making it easily recognizable to national and regular users. The core functionalities of the BCH, which are *submitting* records and *searching* for information, have been fully redeveloped and enhanced. In addition, the new platform offers many new features such as a modern *Homepage*, an interactive *Country Profiles* page, and a *Knowledge Base* containing a suite of help materials to assist users in site navigation and the submission process.

13. Several activities indicated in the chronogram are still ongoing development. This includes the development of functionalities to facilitate the linkage between the BCH and national biosafety clearing-houses. On the previous BCH platform, this linkage had been enabled through the AJAX plug-in and Hermes tool. As requested in decision CP-9/2, the Secretariat is exploring how the Bioland tool² could be used to facilitate the exchange of information related to biosafety moving forward. Another area where work is ongoing concerns the migration of online forums. Options are being explored with a view to developing a harmonized approach to online forums across the clearing-houses. Achieving these key tasks will require the availability of human and financial resources.

C. Launch of the new BCH platform

14. The new platform of the BCH officially launched on 29 November 2021. In the weeks leading up to the launch, starting 17 November, technical procedures took place to physically migrate all record content from the previous BCH platform to the new site. During this short period, the BCH had limited functionality; users were able to search and view record content on the previous platform but were not able to submit new records.

15. The Secretariat held a training webinar on 7 December 2021 to build capacity on the new platform of the BCH, highlighting new features and key changes from the previous platform. A total of 177 participants joined the event including national focal points, Informal Advisory Committee members, other organizations and the general public.

III. ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE

16. In 2019, the Informal Advisory Committee on the Biosafety Clearing-House was reinstated and its members reconfirmed.

17. In accordance with the modalities of operation of the BCH, the Executive Secretary convened the eleventh meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee to review the progress made since its tenth meeting (held in April 2016) and to seek further guidance on a number of areas, including improving the functionality of the BCH and its migration to the new platform. In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held online, from 1 to 4 December 2020.

18. At its eleventh meeting, the Informal Advisory Committee expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for the organization of the virtual meeting and acknowledged the impressive and significant work that the Secretariat had devoted to the migration of the BCH to its new platform at that time.

19. The members provided concrete feedback on the progress made on the migration at that time and made recommendations on the priorities and way forward on activities of the BCH, including the completion of the migration of the BCH to its new platform. The Committee noted the challenges experienced by the Secretariat in undertaking the migration, and recommended the Secretariat review its staffing needs to ensure the proper functioning of the BCH from both a substantive and information technology perspective.

² <https://demo.test.chm-cbd.net/>.

20. The Committee recognized the importance of the translation of the new BCH platform and recommended that at least the common formats should be available in the six official languages of the United Nations by the time the new BCH was launched. The Committee recognized that other parts of the platform might initially be available in English only, with the understanding that the work on translating other parts of the clearing-house would continue after the launch. At the time of preparation of the present document, the translation of the online common formats was complete and the translation of the remaining pages of the BCH was under way.

21. Additionally, the Committee made specific recommendations regarding cooperation with other organizations; see section VI below for further information.

22. The report of the eleventh meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee, as well as other related documents, is available at <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/BCH-IAC-11>.

IV. STATUS OF THE INFORMATION IN THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE

23. While the new platform for the BCH was under development, the BCH continued to operate on its previous platform and it remained a key tool for information-sharing, capacity-building and facilitating the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

24. The Secretariat continued to manage the BCH daily and to monitor the accuracy and completeness of records by urging Parties to ensure that the necessary information was available on the BCH (e.g. summaries of risk assessments to accompany records on decisions on introduction into the environment) and that BCH records were kept up-to-date (e.g. national focal points, national points of contact and competent national authorities). The Secretariat also reviewed and validated some categories of records for publication on the BCH (e.g. records on LMOs, genes and organisms; and capacity-building initiatives and activities; news records). The Secretariat continued to address a number of requests from Parties and others for technical advice and assistance related to the management of records and use of the new platform.

25. In addition, work by the Compliance Committee has contributed greatly to ensuring the accuracy, completeness and consistency of records in the BCH. In accordance with the Committee's cyclical organization of work, the Committee periodically reviews the consistency between information in national reports and on the BCH. Further, the completeness of submitted information is evaluated to ensure Parties fulfil their obligation to make mandatory information available in the BCH under the requirements of the Protocol. When inconsistent or incomplete information is identified, the Committee initiates follow-up actions with the concerned Parties by requesting the Secretariat to communicate with the Party or by the Chair of the Committee sending a letter. The Committee's work in reviewing completeness and consistency has resulted in an improvement to the quality and breath of information in the BCH, especially concerning the publication of records on risk assessments and on measures for implementation of the Protocol.

26. The BCH was considered in the analysis for the fourth assessment and review of the Protocol and the final evaluation of the Strategic Plan for the Protocol (2011-2020). The full analysis is available in documents CBD/SBI/3/3/Add.1 and CBD/SBI/3/3. The analysis showed that, overall, the number of submissions to the BCH has seen a large increase and more than doubled since the baseline.³ For example, the number of decisions published in the BCH increased by 177 per cent; the ratio of risk assessments to decisions on LMOs⁴ in the BCH improved by 17 per cent; there was a rise in the rate of submission of

³ The baseline was established by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol through decision BS-VI/15. The baseline comprises information from the second national reports, the BCH and a dedicated survey (carried out in 2013) to gather information corresponding to indicators in the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety that could not be obtained from the second national reports or through other existing mechanisms. For more information on the methodology used for conducting the fourth assessment and review of the Protocol and the final evaluation of the Strategic Plan, see section II of document CBD/SBI/3/3/Add.1.

⁴ For this purpose, decisions regarding transboundary movement of LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment (under Article 10 of the Protocol) and decisions related to import or domestic use of LMOs for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (under Article 11 of the Protocol, or under the domestic framework) were considered.

national records by developing countries and economies in transition by 15 per cent. Increases were also reported in the amount of traffic to the BCH.

27. Apart from being an important repository of information, the BCH has also become a more widely used tool for online discussions, which was visible both by an increase in the number of online forums established on the BCH (relating to the post-2020 implementation plan;⁵ public participation, education and awareness;⁶ and synthetic biology), the number of Parties having registered participants to online forums and the number of participants in online forums. The former “BCH on BCH Forum” has also been reinstated and has been crucial to carrying out widespread testing of the new BCH platform.

28. The number of records published in the BCH has increased over the period since the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. The table below provides a summary of the number of records published on the BCH as of 10 March 2022.

⁵ <https://bch.cbd.int/protocol/post2020/ForumImplementationPlan.shtml>.

⁶ https://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_art23/pa_main.shtml.

Number of records published in the BCH (excluding national reports)

Record type	Total records as of 17 November 2018	Total records as of 10 March 2022
National records		
National contacts (CPB and BCH focal points, emergency measures contacts under Article 17)	N/A ⁷	348
Competent national authorities (CNA)	255	406
Supplementary Protocol competent authority (SPCA)	N/A (new format as of 29 November 2021)	7
Biosafety laws, regulations, guidelines and agreements (LAW)	851	1 107
Countries' decisions and other communications (DEC)	2 045	2 659
Risk assessments generated by a regulatory process (RA)	2 014	2 541
National biosafety websites or databases (NDB)	119	151
Biosafety experts (EXP)	324	366
National records total:	5 606	7 585
Contacts	1 360	1 527
Reference records		
Biosafety virtual library resource (VLR) ⁸	1 485 ⁹	1 549
Biosafety organizations (ORG)	216	372
Laboratories for detection and identification of LMOs (LAB)	21	70
Living modified organisms (LMO)	641	908
Genetic elements (GENE)	503	810
Organisms (ORGA)	170	259
Risk assessment generated by an independent or non-regulatory process (IRA)	18	35
Submissions	361	525
Capacity development initiatives (CDI)	406 ¹⁰	420
BCH news (BCHN)	485	555
Reference records total:	4 306	5 503
Total of all records:	11 274	14 615

V. COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME – GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE III CAPACITY-BUILDING PROJECT

29. The Secretariat has been undertaking a number of collaborative activities with the United Nations Environment Programme–Global Environment Facility “Project for Sustainable Capacity-Building for

⁷ Due to the changes made to the various national contact databases during the migration process, the Secretariat is unable to generate accurate data for this metric.

⁸ The old BCH also contained records in Scientific Bibliographic Database on Biosafety (*Bibliosafety*). The *Bibliosafety* database was hosted and maintained by the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB). Recently, ICGEB stopped maintaining *Bibliosafety* so these records have not been migrated to the new platform. The new BCH now includes the “Biosafety Virtual Library Resource (VLR)” records only (previously known as “Biosafety Information Resource Centre (BIRC)”).

⁹ Number of “Biosafety Information Resource Centre (BIRC)” records in the previous BCH.

¹⁰ Number of “Capacity-Building Activities, Projects and Opportunities” records in previous BCH.

Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House” (UNEP-BCH III Project), including in response to decision CP-9/2 whereby the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate the development, in collaboration with UNEP through the BCH III Project, of training materials, including online training, based on the new platform and user interface.

30. As part of the collaborative activities, the Project provided funds to enable the Secretariat to hire a Web Development Consultant to support the Information Technology team of the Secretariat in the work on the migration. In addition, the Project provided funds that enabled the Secretariat to recruit an expert consultant to review the user interface (UI) and user experience (UX) needs of the clearing-houses. The objective of this work was to identify “pain points” with the design of the BCH, as well as the ABS Clearing-House and CHM platforms that hinder their effectiveness; to assist with improving the usability and functionality of the new BCH and develop recommendations and guidelines for future improvements. A second phase of the work will involve implementing additional design recommendations to improve the consistency of common operations across the clearing-houses and make the platforms more intuitive and user-friendly.

31. As part of the collaboration between the Secretariat and the UNEP-BCH III Project, the Secretariat assisted the Project in distributing the survey prepared by the Project via notification 2020-048,¹¹ as well as through the “BCH on BCH Forum”. The aim of the survey was to collect information on (a) immediate BCH and biosafety needs to guide and fine-tune the BCH III Project capacity-building interventions in the light of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; and (b) implementation of the BCH and biosafety measures in general. The survey also gathered perspectives on what can be instituted at the national and global levels to generally enhance the knowledge, awareness, participation and sustainability of the BCH and biosafety over the longer term. A summary report of the survey and its outcomes is made available as an information document (CBD/CP/MOP/10/INF/8).

32. In cooperation with the Secretariat, the Project developed initial training videos with the objective to build capacity on the use of the new BCH platform and to ease the transition from the old BCH platform. The training videos were distributed by the Secretariat via the “BCH on BCH Forum” and notification 2021-042.¹²

33. The UNEP-BCH III Project collaborated with the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) and the Secretariat on the preparation of the social media toolkit with the aim of raising awareness about the new BCH platform at the time of its launch and beyond.

34. With the support of the Project, a BCH Training Workshop is being planned to be held on the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol.

VI. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER BIOSAFETY-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

35. In decision CP-9/2, paragraph 5 (b), the Executive Secretary is requested to continue collaborating with other biosafety databases and platforms. Additionally, at the eleventh meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on the Biosafety Clearing-House, the recommendation was made (a) to continue discussions with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) with the aim of assessing the possibility for OECD to develop permanent unique identifiers for living modified animals in the near future and (b) to continue collaborating and exploring possibilities for facilitating information-sharing between BCH, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and OECD databases and other relevant databases in the longer term.

¹¹ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2020/ntf-2020-048-bch-en.pdf>.

¹² <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2021/ntf-2021-042-bch-en.pdf>.

36. The Secretariat has been holding discussions with OECD on the anticipated plan of action to develop and apply the unique identifier system, currently being used worldwide for living modified plants, to living modified animals.

37. The Secretariat is also currently working with OECD and FAO on finalizing the implementation mechanism to link risk assessment and decision records published in the BCH with the FAO and OECD databases. Suggested wording for a new set of questions in the associated common formats in the BCH were proposed at the tenth meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on the BCH and were confirmed during the eleventh meeting. The suggestions were implemented in the new platform. The modality of how best to link these records with OECD and FAO was discussed and confirmed in October 2021.

38. In addition, the Secretariat began discussions with OECD and FAO on initial steps toward the potential harmonization of modified trait categories of LMOs between the three databases. The three organizations shared their current framework and structure for their trait lists with a view to standardizing the naming of the categories in use.

39. The Secretariat and CropLife International discussed maintaining the linkages between the BCH and the *BioTradeStatus* database (<http://www.biotradestatus.com>) maintained by CropLife International. The Secretariat has also been working with the information technology team of CropLife on establishing modalities for linkages between the BCH and the “detection methods” database of CropLife International.

40. The Secretariat has re-established collaboration with the European GMO Initiative for a Unified Database System (Euginius)¹³ with a view to achieving a harmonized naming system of genetic elements across different databases and facilitating interlinkages between the BCH and the Euginius database.

VII. POST-2020 PROCESSES AND THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE

A. The implementation plan and the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol

41. Further to decisions [CP-9/7](#) and [CP-9/3](#), a draft implementation plan and capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety were developed through an extensive consultative process. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation, at its third meeting, considered the plans and adopted a recommendation (recommendation 3/4) for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its tenth meeting.

42. The draft implementation plan is contained in annex I to SBI recommendation 3/4, while the capacity-building action plan can be found in annex II to the same recommendation. The two plans are organized around a common set of goals, one of which relates specifically to the BCH. In the draft, “Goal A.2 is that “Parties have improved the availability and exchange of relevant information through the BCH”. Two objectives have been identified to achieve this goal: (a) Parties provide accurate and complete mandatory information in the BCH in accordance with their obligations under the Protocol and (b) Parties publish any non-mandatory biosafety-related information through the BCH. The outcome of this goal is that the “BCH facilitates the availability and exchange of biosafety-related information and enables Parties to take informed decisions.”

43. Under goal A.2, the draft capacity-building action plan identifies two key areas for capacity-building, namely publishing information on the BCH, and accessing and using information on the BCH. There are also examples of suggested capacity-building activities including the development and maintenance of interactive support tools following the migration of the BCH to its new platform and conducting training on the use of the new BCH.

¹³ The genetic elements in the BCH are named according to a system that was suggested by European GMO database application - Euginius (available at <https://euginius.eu/euginius/pages/home.jsf>) - in joint cooperation with the BCH. The idea was and is to label same genetic elements in a comprehensive and structured way and it has been put in practice in the BCH LMO database and in the Euginius GMO database. The European Union has established a controlled vocabulary for the harmonized naming of genetic elements (thesaurus) which is being used in Euginius. The paper describing the Genetic Elements Thesaurus has been published and is now available at <https://rdcu.be/ce8LI>.

44. As a cross-cutting tool, the BCH is also relevant to a number of the other goals in the draft implementation plan and the draft capacity-building action plan. It is specifically mentioned in connection with goal A.8 on the detection and identification of LMOs and in connection with goal B on public awareness, education and participation but is linked to many of the other goals as well, particularly as a source of information for measuring indicators.

B. Knowledge management and the clearing-house mechanism

45. In decision 14/25, paragraph 4 (f), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention requested the Executive Secretary to develop, in consultation with the informal advisory committees to the clearing-house mechanism, the Biosafety Clearing-House and the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House, a knowledge management component as a part of the preparatory process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to, inter alia, guide future developments of the clearing-house mechanism, the BCH and the ABS Clearing-House.

46. A draft of the knowledge management component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework was made available for the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (CBD/SBI/3/8/Add.1). At its eleventh meeting, the Informal Advisory Committee heard a presentation on the knowledge management component and provided some feedback.

47. The knowledge management component was considered by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at the first part of its third meeting, held virtually in May-June 2021. During the resumed session of the meeting, held in Geneva in March 2022, recommendation 3/10 containing a draft decision for the Conference of the Parties, was adopted.

48. As presented in the annex to recommendation 3/10 of the Subsidiary Body, the knowledge management component would seek to enhance interoperability, accessibility and use of relevant information and knowledge management systems, tools and mechanisms to support the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. These include but are not limited to the systems of biodiversity-related conventions, including the CHM, the BCH and the ABS Clearing-House, among others.

49. Expected outcomes of the implementation of the knowledge management component relating to the BCH include (a) the increased availability and accessibility of relevant data, information and knowledge; (b) an increased capacity of Governments and relevant stakeholders to capture, manage and utilize biodiversity-related data, information and knowledge; and (c) increased information sharing across biodiversity-related conventions and organizations.

VIII. PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE

50. Although the major part of the migration has been completed, there are still a number of pending activities, including, among others:

(a) Making further improvements to various sections of the new BCH platform, including those based on the recommendations of the Informal Advisory Committee to the BCH at its eleventh meeting and the aforementioned UI/UX review;

(b) Further development of statistical and analytical tools;

(c) Completing the translation of all pages of the new platform;

(d) Ensuring availability of national website tools to allow direct linkages with the new BCH and exploring the use of the *Bioland* tool;

(e) Further development of online help materials, training modules and explanatory videos with the aim to demonstrate various features of different sections of the new platform;

(f) Developing a coordinated approach to the web infrastructure for online forums across the CHM, the ABS Clearing-House and BCH;

(g) Integrating the substantive web pages on the Protocol (<https://bch.cbd.int/protocol>) with the CBD website further to the web strategy for the Convention and its Protocols.¹⁴

IX. SUGGESTED ELEMENTS OF A DRAFT DECISION

51. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, at its tenth meeting, may wish to 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,

1. *Welcomes* the migration of the central portal of the Biosafety Clearing-House to its new platform and the improvements made in accordance with the joint modalities of operation for the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, the Biosafety Clearing-House and the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House endorsed in decision CP-9/2;

2. *Calls upon* Parties and other Governments to publish information available at the national level on the Biosafety Clearing-House in accordance with the obligations of the Protocol;

3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to review records they have previously published on the Biosafety Clearing-House to verify their accuracy on the new platform and to make any revisions or updates as necessary;

4. *Takes note* of goal A.2 and related capacity-building activities in the implementation plan and the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety¹⁵ and invites Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to carry out related activities with a view to further strengthening the role of the Biosafety Clearing-House in the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol;

5. *Welcomes* the successful implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme—Global Environment facility “Project for Sustainable Capacity Building for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House” (BCH III Project) and invites the United Nations Environment Programme to develop further capacity-building projects related to the Biosafety Clearing-House;

6. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to continue to make funds available in support of activities related to the Biosafety Clearing-House;

7. *Welcomes* the collaborative activities undertaken between the biosafety databases of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Biosafety Clearing-House;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to continue to maintain and make necessary improvements to the Biosafety Clearing-House, including:

(a) Translating further pages of the BCH, including new features and content as they are developed to ensure that the Biosafety Clearing-House is available in the six official languages of the United Nations;

(b) Exploring how the Bioland tool can be used to facilitate the linkage between national websites and the Biosafety Clearing-House, and other mechanisms that allow national clearing-houses to retrieve information from the Biosafety Clearing-House;

¹⁴ See document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/14/Add.1.

¹⁵ Subject to consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol of the draft decision contained in recommendation 3/4 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

9. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary:
- (a) To continue developing capacity-building materials and perform trainings on the new functionalities of the Biosafety Clearing-House, including as a contribution to the key activities highlighted in the capacity-building action plan;
 - (b) To explore options for a coordinated approach to the web infrastructure for online forums across the clearing-houses;
 - (c) To continue collaborating with other biosafety-related databases and organizations.
-