



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

CBD/CP/BCH-IAC/11/1/Add.1
30 October 2020

ENGLISH ONLY

INFORMAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE
Eleventh meeting
Online, 1-4 December 2020

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. Article 20 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity establishes a Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) “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 (MOP) adopted the modalities of operation of the BCH. Section E of the modalities of operation states: “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 of the BCH, the Executive Secretary is convening the eleventh meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee to review the progress made since its tenth meeting and to seek further guidance on a number of areas including improving the functionality of the BCH central portal and its migration to the new platform.
4. In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting will be held online using the GoToWebinar platform. Additional information on the platform will be provided prior to the meeting.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The meeting will be opened by the Executive Secretary or her representative at 12 noon GMT/UTC¹ on 1 December 2020.

¹ GMT - Greenwich Mean Time; UTC - Universal Time Coordinated. You can use a time zone converter such as this one - <https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html> - to obtain your local time.

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/11/1).

2.3. Organization of work

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

ITEM 3. MIGRATION OF THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE

9. 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 requested the Executive Secretary to, inter alia, carry 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.

10. 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 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; and (b) complete the migration of the BCH to its new platform and to continue collaborating with other biosafety databases and platforms.

11. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will provide an overview of the migration process, including the status of the work done to date following the activities set out in the chronogram² and the next steps. The overview will include a presentation on the new BCH platform. Information relevant to this agenda item can be found in section I of document CBD/CP/BCH-IAC/11/2. The revised common formats will be made available as document CBD/CP/BCH-IAC/11/INF/1.

12. The Informal Advisory Committee will be invited to discuss and provide feedback on the work done to date and the next steps foreseen in the further development and migration of the BCH.

ITEM 4. STATUS OF THE CURRENT BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE

13. While the platform for the new BCH is under development, the BCH continues to operate on its current platform (<http://bch.cbd.int>). Under this agenda item, a representative of the Secretariat will give a presentation on the status of the current BCH, including information arising from the fourth assessment and review of the Protocol and final evaluation of the Strategic Plan that has been undertaken in the current inter-sessional period. Information relevant to this agenda item can be found in section II of document CBD/CP/BCH-IAC/11/2.

14. The Informal Advisory Committee will be invited to discuss and provide feedback on the information presented.

ITEM 5. COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME – GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE III CAPACITY-BUILDING PROJECT

15. In decision CP-9/2, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate the development, in collaboration with the United

² Available on the home page of the BCH at <http://bch.cbd.int/>.

Nations Environment Programme through the BCH III project, of training materials, including online training based on the new platform and user interface.

16. Under this agenda item, a representative of the UNEP-GEF BCH III project will be invited to make a presentation on the status and work of the Project. Information will also be provided on collaborative activities undertaken between the Project and the Secretariat.

17. Information relevant to this agenda item can be found in section III of the report on the Biosafety Clearing-House (CBD/CP/BCH-IAC/11/2).

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

ITEM 6. POST-2020 PROCESSES AND THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE

19. Through decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting and by the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its ninth meeting, a number of processes are underway to develop plans and strategies for the post-2020 period. Of particular relevance to the BCH are the development of a knowledge management component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the development of the implementation plan and capacity-building action plan for the Protocol.

20. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will provide information on the knowledge management component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as well as on how the BCH has been addressed in the draft implementation plan and capacity-building action plan for the Protocol.

21. Information relevant to this agenda item can also be found in section IV of document CBD/CP/BCH-IAC/11/2. Documents CBD/SBI/3/8/Add.1 (knowledge management component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework) and CBD/SBI/3/18 (Implementation plan and capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol) have also been made available for the information of the Informal Advisory Committee.

ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

22. Under this agenda item, the members of the Informal Advisory Committee will be invited to raise any relevant issues that were not addressed under the other items.

ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

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

ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

24. The eleventh meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee is expected to close at 4 p.m. GMT/UTC on 4 December 2020.

*Annex I***PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

<i>Date and time (GMT/UTC)³</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
Tuesday, 1 December 2020	
12 noon – 4 p.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. Migration of the Biosafety Clearing-House
Wednesday, 2 December 2020	
12 noon – 4 p.m.	<i>Item 3 continued</i>
	Item 4. Status of the current Biosafety Clearing-House
Thursday, 3 December 2020	
12 noon – 4 p.m.	Item 5. Collaboration with the UNEP-GEF BCH III capacity-building project
	Item 6. Post-2020 processes and the Biosafety Clearing-House
Friday, 4 December 2020	
12 noon – 4 p.m.	Item 7. Other matters
	Item 8. Adoption of the report
	Item 9. Closure of the meeting

³ GMT - Greenwich Mean Time; UTC - Coordinated Universal Time. You can use a time zone converter such as this one - <https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html> - to obtain your local time.

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
CBD/CP/BCH-IAC/11/1	Provisional agenda
CBD/CP/BCH-IAC/11/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
CBD/CP/BCH-IAC/11/2	Report on the Biosafety Clearing-House
CBD/CP/BCH-IAC/11/INF/1	Common formats for registering information in the Biosafety Clearing-House
CBD/SBI/3/8/Add.1	Knowledge management component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
CBD/SBI/3/18	Implementation plan and capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol
