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REVIEW OF THE EXPERIENCE IN HOLDING CONCURRENT MEETINGS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION AND THE MEETINGS OF THE PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOLS – VIEWS FROM PARTIES

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. BACKGROUND

1. In 2016, the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 13), the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CP-COP-MOP 8), and the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (NP-COP-MOP 2)¹ were held concurrently in Cancun, Mexico. In [decision XIII/26](#), the Conference of the Parties to the Convention adopted criteria for reviewing, at its fourteenth and fifteenth meetings, experience in holding meetings concurrently, and requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a preliminary review, using these criteria, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting. The meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols decided to use similar criteria for reviewing their meetings in decisions [CP VIII/10](#) and [NP 2/12](#), respectively.

2. In response to these requests, a notification inviting Parties to Convention and its Protocols to provide their perspectives on holding meetings concurrently was issued on 22 February 2017 with a deadline of 24 March 2017. Subsequently, the deadline for the submission of comments was extended to 10 April 2017. The notification invited Parties to complete a questionnaire based on the criteria identified in [decisions XIII/26](#), [CP VIII/10](#) and [NP 2/12](#) and provided additional space for written comments. The present document contains all of the written comments received in response to this notification. This information document is complemented by a second information document (CBD/SBI/2/INF/2) which summarizes the results of a survey that was sent to participants following the 2016 concurrent meetings. Both information documents provide supporting information for the official note on this topic (CBD/SBI/2/16/Add.1).

II. RESPONDENTS TO THE SURVEY

3. The notification issued to Parties elicited 71 responses from 64 Parties.² Some Parties provided separate submissions for the Convention and its Protocols, and not all respondents answered all questions

* [CBD/SBI/2/1](#).

¹ For ease of reference, these meetings are collectively referred to as the “concurrent meetings” in the present document.

² Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Czechia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, European Union, Finland, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau,

in the questionnaire. Similarly not all respondents provided written comments further substantiating their responses. Of the responses to the notification, 62 included information related to the Convention, 55 included information related to the Cartagena Protocol and 41 included information related to the Nagoya Protocol. This represents a response rate of approximately 32 per cent of Parties to the Convention, 32 per cent of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and 43 per cent of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol at the time when the submissions were made. On a regional basis, 23 responses were received from Africa, 10 from Asia and the Pacific, 7 from Central and Eastern Europe, 17 from Latin American and Caribbean Countries and 14 from the Western Europe and Others Group. A total of 53 of the responses were from developing countries and 18 were from developed countries. The number of written comments received varied with the question and ranged from 23 to 44 written responses. All of the written comments are compiled in the table below.

Compilation of written comments received — organized by the identified criteria³

Country	Full and effective participation of representatives of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, in the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
Algeria	The majority of countries could only be represented by one or two delegates, making it impossible to cover all meetings
Antigua & Barbuda	The participation of Antigua & Barbuda was considerably more effective due to the financial assistance provided by the Secretariat of the CBD.
Austria	I cannot judge because in a meeting I do not differ between developed and other countries, as the delegates have all the same badges.
	The highly complex agenda setting for the three meetings and the interlinked nature of some items has been a huge challenge for small delegations
Belarus	I believe that the convening of concurrent meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the Conference of the Parties as the meeting of the Parties to Cartagena Protocol, and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol was very fruitful
Belgium	The organization of the formal sessions of the meetings (Plenary and Working Groups) was quite similar to that during previous meetings of the COP-MOP. However, the large number of simultaneously organized contact groups may have prevented representatives of developing countries to participate in all of those – but this, again, is not fundamentally different from previous conferences.
Bénin	Un seul représentant pour la Convention et les deux protocoles ce qui ne permet pas une pleine participation du Bénin
Burundi	The participation of representatives of developing country Parties is not full and effective because those countries are represented by one person. Or, we know that the COP is organized in groups and one person cannot participate in two groups and that why we recommend to

Honduras, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sudan, Switzerland, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, Yemen, and Zimbabwe. In addition, one Party (Iraq) indicated that it was unable to respond to the notification as it could not participate in the concurrent meetings for visa reasons.

³ These comments are reproduced in the language and format in which they were received. In cases where a Party provided more than one submission these are indicated in separate rows in the tables.

	review the representation of developing country so that their participation can be full and effective.
Cabo Verde	Had the participation of the country but did not have the participation of the focal point for the Cartagena protocol. Only the focal point for biodiversity was support by the secretariat, and of course, it is difficult to participate in the actions of the protocol taking into account that it focuses more on biodiversity.
Canada	• There seemed to be large delegations from several developing countries in Africa and Asia and Latin America – which was excellent. Participants from all countries, including developing countries had an equal opportunity to participate in discussions. • Concurrent meetings posed the logistical challenge of not being able to attend all meetings/sessions when issues overlapped (e.g. plenary, working groups, etc.).
China	Since several working group/contact group meetings are held in parallel, it is difficult for Parties with limited number of representatives to participate all the meetings.
Colombia	From my impression on the meetings, I would say that some delegations were very small, and that created difficulties regarding their attendance to all or at least most of the side events and contact group meetings.
Côte d'Ivoire	Je pense qu'il y a eu une participation pleine des délégué qui étaient présents.
Cuba	The available financing did not allow the attendance of each country that is part of convention and protocols. Besides the length of meetings, because of its concurrent modality, limited the possibility for many delegations to be the whole Conference.
Denmark	Denmark notes that resource constraints may have limited the participation of representatives of developing country Parties. Concurrent meetings demand for a higher number of contact groups/friends of the chair than usual. Running four groups at the same time challenges small delegations as they may not be able to participate in all four groups at the same time. However running 3 concurrent meetings in the same working group allowed for participation by even small delegation in discussion of cross-cutting issues which is definitely considered very efficient and constructive in regards to strengthen integration between the convention and its protocols.
Ecuador	For Ecuadorian delegation was complicated attend in an effective way all the topics planned into the agenda under this new modality, because in our delegation had limited number of delegates.
European Union	Whilst acknowledging potential remaining barriers, resource constraints and the challenges of attending parallel meetings (in particular where experts have responsibilities under both the CBD as either of its Protocols), the EU and its MS have the impression that convening concurrent meetings has facilitated full and effective participation by developing country Parties.
Finland	The lack of financial means and level of the voluntary contributions for supporting participants from developing countries was debated and an issue in the Budget group. The COP meeting and representation from different regional groups worked in our opinion in a balanced way. The VISA system in Mexico worked and support was given sufficiently.
Ghana	Limited number of country delegates
Grenada	One person supported to attend all meetings from SIDS and LDCS makes it difficult to achieve difficult to measure full and effective participation but the multiple skills set required to have a chance

Guatemala	Developing countries did not have the chance to have a representative delegation due to the fact that few people can attend the different conventions at the same time. Additionally, from the CBD there is not enough support for having more country representatives in concurrent meetings.
Guinee-Bissau	C'est une façon de renforcer la synergie entre la Convention et ses Protocoles tout en permettant à tous les acteurs connaître mieux ces différents instruments.
India	While convening concurrent meetings of COP and MOPs is indeed cost-effective, however, it may not be effective in terms of full and effective participation of representatives of developing country Parties, and in improving the efficiency of the process since following the discussions from one meeting to the other is not easy and is especially challenging for the smaller delegations.
Iran	Increased cost due to the longer time required for staying in the meeting resulted in low level participation of key negotiators.
Jamaica	A number of countries only had one representative and thus could not attend all working group/contact group meetings and benefit from or contribute to deliberations which informed decisions.
Madagascar	Some countries have been underrepresented for lack of financial support
Mali	toutes les parties ont participé aux réunions
Mexico	Even though there was an effective representation, there is a challenge for full and effective participation.
Nepal	Nepal is well prepared for the COP and is able to show its firm commitments through NBSAP and National Reports
Netherlands	whilst acknowledging potential remaining barriers and the challenges of attending parallel meetings, The Netherlands has the impression that convening concurrent meetings has facilitated full and effective participation by developing country Parties.
Niger	this is in conformity of the country status
Norway	The challenge of providing travel support for the Cancun-meetings might have resulted in less participation in the MOPs from countries in need of travel support.
Pakistan	Only one sponsored delegate cannot attend the concurrent meetings
Sao Tome	Due to lack of governmental instillation
	We fully participate at all conference of Parties-CdP. But, we didn't participate in the last convention (13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties) because lack of communication.
Seychelles	The fact that the meetings were being held concurrently made it a bit hard to follow especially for us from SIDS given that we only had a very small delegation present.
Slovenia	As a Party we can't adequately assess the participation of representatives of developing countries and Parties with economies in transition. We have no insight in the level of their actual participation and/or financial support for that purpose. Since we do not have the necessary information on which we could base our assessment we also believe that as a Party we are not competent for making such assessment. We therefore assume that criteria for that item was partially met.

South Africa	Countries where one participant was funded would juggle their time and missed sessions where they would not attend. This constrained negotiations with such contracting Parties demanding their positions to be considered for agenda items that were closed whilst they were attending other sessions in other venues.
Sudan	Only one participant received financial support to participate in the concurrent meetings, so he or she couldn't participate fully in the meetings.
Switzerland	The convening of concurrent meetings was advantageous to allow the participation at all three meetings in a short time frame. However, especially for smaller delegations it might have been challenging to participate in parallel sessions (i.e. working groups, friends of the chair).
Tunisia	Only one representative from Tunisia attended the meeting due to budget restrictions.
Uganda	Only one delegate was supported by the CBD Secretariat to participate in the three meetings: COP13, COPMOP8 and COPMOP2. It was therefore difficult for countries that had only one delegate to fully and effectively participate in the meetings which were running concurrently.
Ukraine	The delegation, which consisted of only one representative, could not provide the effective and a full part in the discussion of all items of the agenda of the three meetings
Zimbabwe	Participation limited by numbers.

Country	Full and effective participation of representatives of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, in the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol
Algeria	The majority of countries could only be represented by one or two delegates, making it impossible to cover all meetings
Antigua & Barbuda	The participation of Antigua & Barbuda was considerably more effective due to the financial assistance provided by the Secretariat of the CBD.
Austria	I cannot judge because in a meeting I do not differ between developed and other countries, as the delegates have all the same badges.
	Small delegations from developing countries could not take part in all discussions, especially in Contact groups.
Belarus	I believe that the convening of concurrent meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the Conference of the Parties as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol was very fruitful
Belgium	The organization of the formal sessions of the meetings (Plenary and Working Groups) was quite similar to that during previous meetings of the COP-MOP. However, the large number of simultaneously organized contact groups may have prevented representatives of developing countries to participate in all of those – but this, again, is not fundamentally different from previous conferences.

Bénin	Il n'y a eu de représentant à la 8e réunion de la Conférence des Parties agissant comme réunion des Parties au Protocole de Carthagène. Donc la pleine représentation de mon pays n'est pas assurée.
Burundi	The participation of representatives of developing country Parties is not full and effective because those countries are represented by one person, the CBD focal point. Or, we know that the MOP is organized in groups and one person cannot participate in two groups and that why we recommend to review the representation of developing country so that their participation can be full and effective. The Focal Point of this protocol has not participated in the 8th meeting because of lack of financing.
Cabo Verde	Had the participation of the country but did not have the participation of the focal point for the Cartagena protocol. Only the focal point for biodiversity was support by the secretariat, and of course, it is difficult to participate in the actions of the protocol taking into account that it focuses more on biodiversity.
Canada	• Participants from all countries, including developing countries had an equal opportunity to participate in discussions. • Concurrent meetings posed the logistical challenge of not being able to attend all meetings/sessions when issues overlapped (e.g. plenary, working groups, etc.).
China	Since several working group/contact group meetings are held in parallel, it is difficult for Parties with limited number of representatives to participate all the meetings.
Costa Rica	In relation to full participation, it is necessary for the CBD Secretariat to also sponsor the participation of the Focal Points of the Cartagena Protocol, because in the case of Costa Rica, only the CBD Focal Point was sponsored, especially considering the Length of the Meeting, which is 15 days. On the other hand, to ensure that participation is effective, each country is required to conform to a group of professionals (which, in most cases, did not take place), since what is brought to plenary has been elaborated and agreed upon in the groups of Work after the plenary and in many occasions there are meetings at the same time. In addition, there is no translation in these working groups which limits the participation of countries whose language other than English.
Czech Republic	At the concurrent meetings, smaller delegations are likely to focus on COP CBD topics.
Ecuador	For Ecuadorian delegation was complicated attend in an effective way all the topics planned into the agenda under this new modality, because in our delegation had limited number of delegates.
European Union	Whilst acknowledging potential remaining barriers, resource constraints and the challenges of attending parallel meetings (in particular where experts have responsibilities under both the CBD as either of its Protocols), the EU and its MS have the impression that convening concurrent meetings has facilitated full and effective participation by developing country Parties.
Finland	Cartagena Protocol see above
Grenada	One person supported to attend all the meetings makes it difficult to achieve

Guatemala	Few representatives of each Party t cannot attend different topics at the same time. Furthermore, long and tired night discussion sessions are an impediment when few country representatives can attend.
Guinee-Bissau	Effectivement, la délégation du pays n'a pas pu accorder attention méritée tenant compte que le Point Focal de ce Protocole n'était pas présent. D'autre part, le nombre de membres de la délégation du pays n'était pas suffisant en terme de quantité.
India	While convening concurrent meetings of CoP and MoPs is indeed cost-effective, however, it may not be effective in terms of full and effective participation of representatives of developing country Parties, and in improving the efficiency of the process since following the discussions from one meeting to the other is not easy and is especially challenging for the smaller delegations.
Iran	Increased cost due to the longer time required for staying in the meeting resulted in low level participation of key negotiators. No financial support received from the Secretariat.
Jamaica	A number of countries only had one representative and thus could not cover all working group/contact group meetings.
Madagascar	Some countries have been underrepresented for lack of financial support
Mexico	The UN Conference on Biodiversity adopted 67 decisions that are highly relevant for the implementation of the CDB objectives and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets. Some of these decisions were adopted by the three instruments, which allowed more integration and coherence on the achieved results.
Nepal	Nepal is not yet a party for this.
Pakistan	Only one sponsored delegate cannot attend the concurrent meetings
Sao Tome	We fully participate at all conference of Parties-CdP. But, we didn't participate in the last convention (13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties) because lack of communication.
Seychelles	Most of the focus was given to the COP13 rather than to COP 8, which took away from meeting the criteria specific to the Cartagena protocol. Still have to ways to get parties to focus on the protocol and make clear commitments on implementation of the protocol
Slovenia	The complexity of three meetings and consequently demanding agenda was challenge for small delegations. They could not take part in all discussions particularly those ran in contact groups. As a Party we can't adequately assess the participation of representatives of developing countries and Parties with economies in transition. We have no insight in the level of their actual participation and/or financial support for that purpose. Since we do not have the necessary information on which we could base our assessment we also believe that as a Party we are not competent for making such assessment. We therefore assume that criteria for that item was partially met.
South Africa	Countries where one participant was funded would juggle their time and missed

	sessions where they would not attend. This constrained negotiations with such contracting Parties demanding their positions to be considered for agenda items that were closed whilst they were attending other sessions in other venues.
St. Kitts and Nevis	Only one participant was funded by the Secretariat and that participant was unable to cover all the events.
Sudan	Only one participant received financial support to participate in the concurrent meetings, so he or she couldn't participate fully in the meetings.
Switzerland	The convening of concurrent meetings was advantageous to allow the participation at all three meetings in a short time frame. However, especially for smaller delegations it might have been challenging to participate in parallel sessions (i.e. working groups, friends of the chair).
Tunisia	NFP Cartagena Protocol wasn't able to attend the meetings. Leaving office for two weeks of the 3 NFPs, working in the same department, was difficult to justify and argue
Uganda	Only one delegate was supported by the CBD Secretariat to participate in the three meetings: COP13, COPMOP8 and COPMOP2. It was therefore difficult for countries that had only one delegate to fully and effectively participate in the meetings which were running concurrently.
Ukraine	The delegation, which consisted of only one representative, could not provide the effective and a full part in the discussion of all items of the agenda of the three meetings
Zimbabwe	<i>Participation limited by numbers.</i>

Country	Full and effective participation of representatives of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, in the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol
Algeria	The majority of countries could only be represented by one or two delegates, making it impossible to cover all meetings
Antigua & Barbuda	The participation of Antigua & Barbuda was considerably more effective due to the financial assistance provided by the Secretariat of the CBD.
Austria	There are always too many outcomes (I guess you mean decisions)- and in reality nothing changes
Belarus	I believe that the convening of concurrent meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the Conference of the Parties as the meeting of the Parties to Cartagena Protocol, and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol was very fruitful
Belgium	The organization of the formal sessions of the meetings (Plenary and Working Groups)

	was quite similar to that during previous meetings of the COP-MOP. However, the large number of simultaneously organized contact groups may have prevented representatives of developing countries to participate in all of those – but this, again, is not fundamentally different from previous conferences.
Bénin	Il n'y a eu de représentant à la 8e réunion de la Conférence des Parties agissant comme réunion des Parties au Protocole de Nagoya. Donc la pleine représentation de mon pays n'est pas assurée
Burundi	The participation of representatives of developing country Parties is not full and effective because those countries are represented by one person, the CBD focal point. Or, we know that the MOP is organized in groups and one person cannot participate in two groups and that why we recommend to review the representation of developing country so that their participation can be full and effective. The Focal Point of this protocol has not participated in the second meeting because of lack of financing.
Cabo Verde	The country has not yet ratified the Protocol and does not have a designated focal point
Canada	• Participants from all countries, including developing countries had an equal opportunity to participate in discussions. • Concurrent meetings posed the logistical challenge of not being able to attend all meetings/sessions when issues overlapped (e.g. plenary, working groups, etc.).
China	Since several working group/contact group meetings are held in parallel, it is difficult for Parties with limited number of representatives to participate all the meetings.
Ecuador	For Ecuadorian delegation was complicated attend in an effective way all the topics planned into the agenda under this new modality, because in our delegation had limited number of delegates.
European Union	Whilst acknowledging potential remaining barriers, resource constraints and the challenges of attending parallel meetings (in particular where experts have responsibilities under both the CBD as either of its Protocols), the EU and its MS have the impression that convening concurrent meetings has facilitated full and effective participation by developing country Parties.
Finland	Many parties have the same representatives for the convention and it's protocols, and concurrent sessions may make it difficult to follow them efficiently. This is especially true coordination-wise.
Ghana	Yet to sign and ratify the protocol
Guinee-Bissau	Très satisfait avec l'organisation et la participation de la délégation de mon pays à cette séance.
India	While convening concurrent meetings of CoP and MoPs is indeed cost-effective, however, it may not be effective in terms of full and effective participation of representatives of developing country Parties, and in improving the efficiency of the process since following the discussions from one meeting to the other is not easy and is especially challenging for the smaller delegations.

Iran	Increased cost due to the longer time required for staying in the meeting resulted in low level participation of key negotiators. No financial support received from the Secretariat.
Jamaica	A number of countries only had one representative and thus could not attend all working group/contact group meetings.
Madagascar	Some countries have been underrepresented for lack of financial support
Mali	le point focal du Protocole de Nagoya du Mali était absent faute de financement pour assurer sa participation.
Mexico	Even though there was an effective representation, there is a challenge for full and effective participation.
Mozambique	The two Protocol Focal Points of Mozambique did not get financial support to attend the conference and it was difficult to follow the all discussions of the meetings by one person. Thankful to the IUCN support, the Focal Point of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety attended one week of the meeting.
Nepal	Nepal is not yet a party for this.
Netherlands	whilst acknowledging potential remaining barriers and the challenges of attending parallel meetings, The Netherlands has the impression that convening concurrent meetings has facilitated full and effective participation by developing country Parties.
Pakistan	Only one sponsored delegate cannot attend the concurrent meetings
Sao Tome	Because the country had not yet ratified the protocol
Sao Tome	We fully participate at all conference of Parties-CdP. But, we didn't participate in the last convention (13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties) because lack of communication.
Slovenia	As observer state we can't adequately assess the participation of representatives of developing countries and Parties with economies in transition. We have no insight in the level of their actual participation and/or financial support for that purpose. Since we do not have the necessary information on which we could base our assessment we also believe that we are not competent for making such assessment. We therefore assume that criteria for that item was partially met.
South Africa	Countries where one participant was funded would juggle their time and missed sessions where they would not attend. This constrained negotiations with such contracting Parties demanding their positions to be considered for agenda items that were closed whilst they were attending other sessions in other venues.
St. Kitts and Nevis	The one participant that received funding was unable to cover multiple meetings.
Sudan	Only one participant received financial support to participate in the concurrent

	meetings, so he or she couldn't participate fully in the meetings.
Switzerland	The convening of concurrent meetings was advantageous to allow the participation at all three meetings in a short time frame. However, especially for smaller delegations it might have been challenging to participate in parallel sessions (i.e. working groups, friends of the chair).
Tunisia	NFP Nagoya Protocol wasn't able to attend the meetings. Leaving office for two weeks of the 3 NFPs, working in the same department, was difficult to justify and argue
Uganda	Only one delegate was supported by the CBD Secretariat to participate in the three meetings: COP 13, COP-MOP 8 and COP-MOP 2. It was therefore difficult for countries that had only one delegate to fully and effectively participate in the meetings which were running concurrently.
Ukraine	The delegation, which consisted of only one representative, could not provide the effective and a full part in the discussion of all items of the agenda of the three meetings
Zimbabwe	Participation limited by numbers.

Country	Effective development of outcomes of the Conference of the Parties;
Austria	Negotiations would greatly benefit from better coordination and integration of joint issues (e.g. technology transfer, ...)
Bénin	La participation a été assurée avec des résultats qui sont en utilisation
Burundi	The outcomes of the conference of the Parties are not well implemented because of lack of financial means.
Cabo Verde	The decisions taken at the conference of the parties are being taken into account at the level of the annual work plan
Canada	• Lack of adequate opportunity for some contact groups to meet, resulted in less than ideal outcomes. This was particularly true for Article 8(j), capacity-building, and marine and coastal issues. Other issues had too much time considering their importance; for example synergies.
China	Due to limited participation, certain Parties may not be able to make their voice heard in time, which would sometimes slow down the process of developing outcomes.
Côte d'Ivoire	Le développement des résultats était très bon.
Cuba	Partially good, it is required to deep in the discussion of certain points.
Czech Republic	The first week of the meeting (including the parallel sessions of the COP-MOPs) was weaker and not so heavy in relation to the agenda, what caused sometimes very difficult negotiations in the second week of the meeting. Next time, it would be useful to have a better balanced agenda between the first and second week of the meeting; There is a considerable room for improvement of work of the secretariat in the budget

	contact group. Provided materials were often deficient and made available only in hard copies. Some of the information was made available only upon specific request. The activities of the secretariat were at times
Denmark	Convening concurrent meetings has significantly contributed to effective developments of outcomes of COP and especially on matters of cross-cutting nature. Further effective development of outcomes can be achieved in the preparation phase by ensuring preparation of documents in a more integrated fashion and by ensuring joint discussion of cross-cutting issues in CG/FoC from the very beginning.
Ecuador	Despite having achieved most of the expected results, the Ecuadorian delegation considers that more time and logistical facilities are needed for the discussions, especially in the contact groups.
European Union	Convening concurrent meetings has significantly contributed to the outcomes of the COP and the COP-MOPs in particular for cross-cutting issues. However the concurrent meetings led to a lot of waiting for delegates and a number of extra contact groups. The effectiveness could be improved with better planning.
Finland	The Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming and the voluntary commitments including high level thematic discussions HLS on the same topics and the approach worked well. The follow up of outcomes and concrete actions on implementation important post COP-13.
Germany	Effectivity and Cost-effectiveness, see (d), for the COP can only be approximated. In all, schedule issues (and delays) in Working Group 2 also led to ineffective interruptions and are not cost effective. However these downsides are more or less outweighed (for COP itself) by an increased integration of the Convention and its protocols.
	Effectivity and Cost-effectiveness, see (d), for the COP can only be approximated. In all, schedule issues (and delays) in Working Group 2 also led to ineffective interruptions and are not cost effective. However these downsides are more or less outweighed (for COP itself) by an increased integration of the Convention and its protocols.
	Effectivity and Cost-effectiveness, see (d), for the COP can only be approximated. In all, schedule issues (and delays) in Working Group 2 also led to ineffective interruptions and are not cost effective. However these downsides are more or less outweighed (for COP itself) by an increased integration of the Convention and its protocols.
Guatemala	If there are not enough Parties representatives, the reached outcomes cannot as effective as expected.
Guinee-Bissau	Satisfait avec les résultats satisfaisants de la COP ainsi que des COP-MOPs
India	Because of less time being made available to deal with agenda items, the effective development of outcomes of CoP could be compromised.
Madagascar	There was no consensus for some important points like financial mechanism, capacity-building, resource mobilization.

Mali	Les parties étaient bien représentées à la COP
Mexico	The UN Conference on Biodiversity adopted 67 decisions that are highly relevant for the implementation of the CDB objectives and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets. Some of these decisions were adopted by the three instruments, which promoted more integration and coherence among them.
Nepal	Outcomes were made and many resolutions were crafted, which is a good impression for all Parties.
Netherlands	convening concurrent meetings has significantly contributed to the outcomes of the COP in particular for cross-cutting issues.
Norway	With 3 meetings many contact-and friends groups were needed, we realize the challenge in finding the optimal schedule. The number of night sessions was a concern. An observation made is that the Agenda Items that had a potential for procedural integration, such as matters related to the Financial Mechanism, were treated in separation. This was confusing and time consuming and was due to poor planning and worked much better in Korea in 2014. A procedural manual should be developed for agenda-items covering all 3 instruments
Pakistan	Only one sponsored delegate can not attend the concurrent meetings
Peru	En lo que concierne al Artículo 8 j), algunas decisiones deben continuar revisándose en la X Reunión del Grupo de Trabajo 8 j): - Directrices Rutzolijirsaxik Voluntary para la Repatriación de Conocimientos Tradicionales - Glosario de términos y conceptos claves - Directrices voluntarias Mo'otz kuxtal para el conocimiento tradicional - Mecanismos financieros para las acciones colectivas de las PICL - Integración del Artículo 8 j) en el trabajo del Convenio y sus Protocolos.
	El desarrollo de temas del CDB restó mucho tiempo para tratar los temas del Protocolo de Cartagena sobre Bioseguridad (PCB), ello conllevó a que las negociaciones del PCB se extendieran dos semanas, con ausencia del especialista en el tema.
Sao Tome	We fully participate at all conference of Parties-CdP. But, we didn't participate in the last convention (13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties) because lack of communication.
Slovakia	Decisions from the CBD COP 13 are very important outcomes of the Conference, now it will all depend on their implementation.
South Africa	Cooperation and commitment shown by negotiators and hard of consultation and support by the scbd and their support and close collaboration with chairs of the sessions was of great contribution to the success of COP13, MOP 8 and MOP2
Sudan	The concurrent meetings is

Switzerland	The holding of concurrent meetings was particularly beneficial for the discussion and development of outcomes concerning cross-cutting issues (such as digital sequence information).
Uganda	Contact group meetings, working group (I and II) meetings and friends of the Chair meetings were held in parallel (at the same time) especially during the second week). Working groups were not apportioned the same work load. Contact group meetings went late into the night. All this was a disadvantage to countries with one or two delegates.
Ukraine	The delegation, which consisted of only one representative, could not provide the effective development of the outcomes.

Country	Effective development of the outcomes of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol
Austria	An improved structure of the Agenda, e.g. by blocking all relevant topics of the Cartagena Protocol in 5 to 7 working days and to avoid switching between the different instruments in one session would allow for more efficient negotiations.
Belgium	Lack of effectiveness of the development of the outcomes of the meeting was not related to the concurrent meetings
Bénin	La participation n'a été assurée
Burundi	The outcomes of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol are not implemented because of lack of financial means.
Cabo Verde	The country is formatting its capacities for better implementation of the protocol with agreements between entities that have responsibilities in the field of biosafety
Canada	• Discussions among parties and observers led to quick and effective development of outcomes. • It was often challenging to follow the Protocol under discussion, particularly when non-country Parties intervened. • When issues were addressed cumulatively, there was the risk of not giving appropriate attention to the Protocol and its evolution. • It was observed that Parties often underwent trade-offs between issues (i.e. one Party would agree to a particular issue if another Party agreed to support a separate issue).
China	Due to limited participation, certain Parties may not be able to make their voice heard in time, which would sometimes slow down the process of developing outcomes.
Costa Rica	It was possible to address all issues with the exception of the topic on risk assessment, where the Secretariat, without having been approved by the Parties, published and posted on its official website the "Guidance on risk assessment of living modified organisms and monitoring in the context of risk assessment". This is a precedent that must be taken into account so that it does not repeat itself
Côte d'Ivoire	Le développement des résultats était très bon.

Cuba	The concurrent way of meetings did not allow to extend the discussion in specific issues of this Protocol, mainly amongst Parties.
Ecuador	Despite having achieved most of the expected results, the Ecuadorian delegation considers that more time and logistical facilities are needed for the discussions, especially in the contact groups.
European Union	Convening concurrent meetings has significantly contributed to the outcomes of the COP and the COP-MOPs in particular for cross-cutting issues. The effectiveness could be improved with better planning.
Finland	The protocols role and functions for mainstreaming, Cancun declaration and HLS is important to dwell on. Clarification of preparatory process before as well as during the COP(MOP) would be helpful.
Germany	Discontinuous discussions over nearly two weeks interrupt and delay the constructive and effective development of the outcomes of COP/MOP8. The organization of the discussions has to be improved. The negotiations on the Cartagena Protocol (and other Protocols) should be concentrated within one week.
Guatemala	Similar to above
India	Because of less time being made available to deal with agenda items, the effective development of outcomes of CoP could be compromised.
Madagascar	There was no consensus for some important points like financial mechanism, capacity building, resource mobilization,...
Mali	Les débats de ses deux réunions était complémentaires
Nepal	Nepal is not yet a Party to this.
Netherlands	Convening concurrent meetings has significantly contributed to the outcomes of the COP-MOP in particular for cross-cutting issues. However, the Dutch CP delegation members are of the opinion that the work in Working Group 1 could have been organized more efficiently, e.g. by clustering Cartagena Protocol items in one half-day session, Nagoya Protocol items in another half-day, and joint items in yet another half-day. This would prevent a lot of unnecessary waiting for a relevant agenda item to be addressed. Planning Risk Assessment and Risk Management at a relatively late stage (Friday of the first week), knowing that it is traditionally an item needing a lot of discussion, was an unfortunate choice. This was especially the case for Parties that had their CP experts present only during the first week.
Sao Tome	We fully participate at all conference of Parties-CdP. But, we didn't participate in the last convention (13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties) because lack of communication.
South Africa	Cooperation and commitment shown by negotiators and hard of consultation and support by the scbd and their support and close collaboration with chairs of the sessions was of great contribution to the success of COP13, MOP 8 and MOP2

Switzerland	One important outcome in the MOP 13 was the development of risk assessment guidance on living modified organisms. Although the ATHEG work was never called into questions, the acknowledgment process of the guidance was disturbed at the very end, because of a lack of consensus (few parties). Such disturbances shall be avoided in future.
Uganda	Contact group meetings, working group (I and II) meetings and friends of the Chair meetings were held in parallel (at the same time) especially during the second week). Working groups were not apportioned the same work load. Contact group meetings went late into the night. All this was a disadvantage to countries with one or two delegates.
Ukraine	The delegation, which consisted of only one representative, could not provide the effective development of the outcomes.

Country	Effective development of the outcomes of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol
Belgium	Lack of effectiveness of the development of the outcomes of the meeting was not related to the concurrent meetings
Bénin	La participation n'a été assurée
Burundi	The outcomes of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol are not well implemented because of lack of financial means.
Cabo Verde	Steps are being taken at the national level but ratification of the protocol has not yet taken place.
Canada	• It was often challenging to follow the Protocol under discussion, particularly when non-country Parties intervened. • When issues were addressed cumulatively, there was the risk of not giving appropriate attention to the Protocol and its evolution. • It was observed that Parties often underwent trade-offs between issues (i.e. one Party would agree to a particular issue if another Party agreed to support a separate issue).
China	Due to limited participation, certain Parties may not be able to make their voice heard in time, which would sometimes slow down the process of developing outcomes.
Ecuador	Despite having achieved most of the expected results, the Ecuadorian delegation considers that more time and logistical facilities are needed.
European Union	Convening concurrent meetings has significantly contributed to the outcomes of the COP and the COP-MOPs in particular for cross-cutting issues. The effectiveness could be improved with better planning.
Finland	The protocols role and functions for mainstreaming, Cancun declaration and HLS is important to dwell on. Clarification of preparatory process before as well as during the COP(MOP) would be helpful.

Germany	Concurrent organisation of meetings has led to long and ineffective waiting times in between agenda items only concerning CBD or CP.
India	Because of less time being made available to deal with agenda items, the effective development of outcomes of CoP could be compromised.
Madagascar	There was no consensus for some important points like financial mechanism, capacity building, resource mobilization,...
Mali	Les débats de ses deux réunions était complémentaires
Nepal	Nepal is not yet a Party to this.
Pakistan	Only one sponsored delegate cannot attend the concurrent meetings
Peru	Uno de los considerandos de la Decisión XIII/18 sobre las Directrices voluntarias Mo'otz kuxtal no se encamina hacia la integración del Artículo 8 j) con el CDB y sus protocolos, en este caso, particularmente al Protocolo de Nagoya cuando señala: "Subrayando también que estas directrices no se aplican a los conocimientos tradicionales asociados a los recursos genéticos con arreglo al Protocolo de Nagoya, pero pueden utilizarse como aportación, donde proceda, para el desarrollo de instrumentos específicos en el marco del Protocolo".
Sao Tome	We fully participate at all conference of Parties-CdP. But, we didn't participate in the last convention (13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties) because lack of communication.
Slovakia	Some proposals of decisions prepared before COP MOP 2 did not reflect enough the mood of developing countries (for example Article 10 on GMBSM).
South Africa	Cooperation and commitment shown by negotiators and hard of consultation and support by the SCBD and their support and close collaboration with chairs of the sessions was of great contribution to the success of COP13, MOP 8 and MOP2
Uganda	Contact group meetings, working group (I and II) meetings and friends of the Chair meetings were held in parallel (at the same time) especially during the second week). Working groups were not apportioned the same work load. Contact group meetings went late into the night. All this was a disadvantage to countries with one or two delegates.
Ukraine	The delegation, which consisted of only one representative, could not provide the effective development of the outcomes.

Country	Increased integration among the Convention and its Protocols
Austria	Better structure of Agenda and coordination between negotiators necessary to fully meet this criterion.
Belgium	We evaluate this element as being positive compared to previous meetings, in particular regarding more complex, cross-cutting issues – which we expect to become more important in the future

Cabo Verde	The alignment and agreement between the convention and the protocol are being made and concrete actions are planned to improve the interventions
Canada	• It was clear that effort was made to enhance integration among the Convention and its Protocols. The format facilitated an enhanced understanding of how the Protocols and CBD issues integrate. Further, it helped to ensure that a consistent approach to negotiations was applied across the board. • The integrated format worked particularly well for cross-cutting issues; however the issues that were most challenging were not cross-cutting, and as a result, more focused attention was required from issue leads. • Having agenda items that were similar one after the other appeared to be a good idea as it reduced time. However, the time left to discuss CBD issues was very problematic and was partly a result of the integration. For example, several contact groups had little time to meet and only met later in the agenda (e.g. Article 8j, marine and coastal). • When issues were addressed cumulatively, there was the risk of not giving appropriate attention to the Protocol and its evolution.
China	The Secretariat may consider, based on the experience gained from recent COPs and COP-MOPs, to improve the arrangement of the agenda and the organization of work.
Colombia	I consider that having the Convention as well as Protocol meetings in parallel was helpful towards this objective. However, the extent of the full event (more than two weeks) could create financial burden on some delegations, particularly those coming from developing countries. This might be addressed by the Secretariat by means of some sort of financial help or finding accommodations for the participants that are not as expensive as they were in this COP. If the financial problem can be solved, that would enable a stronger and more active participation of all Parties; developing countries would be able to have more experts to assist them and consequently, there would be a better coordination inside and among different delegations.
Costa Rica	As the first meeting of this type can still be noted that there is still no full integration, but if you could have an important approach between topics such as synthetic biology.
Côte d'Ivoire	J'ai bien aimé.
Czech Republic	We welcome the decision on integrated budget and see it as a significant improvement.
Denmark	Convening concurrent meetings has significantly increased the integration among the Convention and its Protocols. Having one WG dealing with both the convention and its protocols and introducing issues of cross-cutting nature within the same session proved very valuable and fostered further integration and awareness among parties. Furthermore it promoted further coordination among colleges on cross-cutting issues
Ecuador	This experience of integrating the agendas of the Convention and its Protocols was interesting, however, there are no believe that should respond to a purely budgetary from the Secretariat issue, but rather a topic of integrality and transversally of the topics to be dealt with.

European Union	Convening concurrent meetings has significantly contributed to the integration among the Convention and its Protocols, as it allowed addressing cross-cutting issues in a coherent manner, and as it fostered awareness and establishing and strengthening direct contacts between relevant colleagues.
Finland	Because this was the first time the structure of the meetings was laid out, increased integration and cross-cutting issues incl. timing should be looked at.
Germany	A more structured discussion of concurrent items could improve the integration.
	A more structured discussion of concurrent items could improve the integration.
	A more structured discussion of concurrent items could improve the integration.
Grenada	Positive direction but early days yet
Guatemala	Some topics can be discussed for different experts so that the reached outcomes will be the result of more widen discussion
Guinee-Bissau	Le fait d'organiser ces séances ensembles constitue déjà un grand avantage.
India	Convening concurrent meetings of CoP and MoPs can lead to better integration among the Convention and its Protocols.
Madagascar	The time allocated for each theme is not sufficient Members of the delegation of certain countries, in limited numbers, are unable to participate fully in all the working groups which operate in parallel
Mali	l'intégration de la convention et ses protocoles n'est totalement effective à tous les niveaux, difficulté de coordination.
Nepal	It was in place with full swing.
Netherlands	convening concurrent meetings has significantly contributed to the integration among the Convention and its Protocols, as it allowed addressing cross-cutting issues in a coherent manner, and as it fostered awareness and establishing and strengthening direct contacts between relevant colleagues.
Norway	Whether this ambition was achieved is hard to measure in an objective way. Integration is only possible where there are linkages. Procedural integration has of course increased (e.g. election of officers), but the aim should be to integrate issues of substantial matters. The most evident example of integration was the agenda item Synthetic Biology discussed under the Convention, as well as the Protocols. Here some real integration was going on, procedurally as well as substantially and called for cooperation between Cartagena and Nagoya experts. In other issues such as risk assessments under the Cartagena Protocol the substantial linkages to the Nagoya Protocol is harder to establish and vice versa. The potential synergy between the art8j and the Nagoya-protocol was not realised as the sessions for the relevant parts were held in parallel in different rooms
Peru	Considero que todavía la integración de los Protocolos al CDB no está muy clara, porque como se puede verificar? En especial el Protocolo de Cartagena, orientar las

	prioridades temáticas de los Protocolos hacia la contribución de los objetivos del plan estratégico y las Metas de Aichi, es mínima, o casi imperceptible, el ser un tema de mucha exigencia técnica, no permite socializar a otros niveles la importancia del tema, porque no existen mensajes con lenguaje comunicaciones que contribuyan con el entendimiento del tema y su importancia en la gestión de los sectores productivos- Uno de los considerandos de la Decisión XIII/18 sobre las Directrices voluntarias Mo'otz kuxtal no se encamina hacia la integración del Artículo 8 j) con el CDB y sus protocolos, en este caso, particularmente al Protocolo de Nagoya cuando señala: "Subrayando también que estas directrices no se aplican a los conocimientos tradicionales asociados a los recursos genéticos con arreglo al Protocolo de Nagoya, pero pueden utilizarse como aportación, donde proceda, para el desarrollo de instrumentos específicos en el marco del Protocolo".
Sao Tome	We fully participate at all conference of Parties-CdP. But, we didn't participate in the last convention (13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties) because lack of communication.
Senegal	Bon niveau d'intégration sur les questions transversales telles que le budget, les mécanismes de financement, coopération avec d'autres institutions, article 8j, etc.
Seychelles	Comments: The convention has always had integration with its protocol. It was felt by our delegation that it made more sense previously where a set amount of time were given to adequately discuss/ deliberate all the issues of each of the protocols separately to make sure that there are better outcomes. There was a significant level of confusion.
South Africa	close proximity and availability of all in the same venue resulted in key people from contracting parties available whenever needed and negotiators able to attend sessions close to their hearts in each of the sessions.
Switzerland	The holding of concurrent meetings was particularly beneficial for the discussion and development of outcomes concerning cross-cutting issues (such as digital sequence information).
Uganda	Only one delegate was supported by CBD Secretariat. A minimum of three delegates were supposed to have been support for the integration effort to be realized

Country	Cost-effectiveness;
Austria	As I had hotel costs for two weeks instead of three.
	More streamlined agenda across the three meetings would also contribute to cost-effectiveness
Canada	• It appeared as though time and resources were used efficiently through all 3 meetings • However people who were experts for the Protocols had to attend the whole meeting, whereas before they would have only attended for a portion, so cost to Parties increased as a result.

China	Convening concurrent meetings leads to a larger number of representatives, resulting in increased management, logistical and other costs.
Denmark	cost-savings were made in regard to facilities, interpretation and staff. It can be argued that having some staff dealing with the protocols to stay for 2 instead of 1 week posed additional cost to parties. However there were savings in the total number of weeks of meetings. Moreover concurrent meetings will allow parties to achieve additional costs-savings – although it will depend on how they coordinate between the convention and the protocol and how they run their participation in the concurrent meetings.
Ecuador	The cost - benefit of the participation of the Ecuadorian delegation was positive, among others, the opportunity to interact with several international organizations related to the themes of the Convention and its protocols is highlighted, allowing in this way to generate spaces of negotiation and support for strengthening actions at national, regional or global level.
European Union	Convening concurrent meetings resulted in some cost-savings, notably as regards coordination, facilities, interpretation] A negative impact on cost-effectiveness resulted from the need for some staff participating in the COP-MOPs to stay for longer than the one-week period of previous COP-MOPs. Such negative impacts should be mitigated by starting the COP-MOPs some days later than the COP, which would focus in the first days on COP-specific agenda items and on COP-aspects of items to be discussed later in proximity with COP-MOP discussions. With the experience gained, the EU and its MS expect cost-savings to increase for future COPs and COP-MOPs. Solid preparation before the COP and COP-MOPs, notably in SBSTTA and SBI, and shorter and more focused agendas and decisions are important in this respect.
Finland	Participation costs reduced.
Germany	CP: See (b) and (c) The discussion of issues relevant for the Protocols should be clearly structured to allow the main negotiations of the Protocol items to take place within one week.
	NP: It would have been more cost-effective, if COP/MOP-2 had been concentrated within one week.
Grenada	Positive direction but early days yet
Guatemala	Reduced number of Party experts can not participate in all of the discussed topics
India	One of the major advantages of convening concurrent CoP and MoPs is cost effectiveness.
Iran	In particular, developing countries would have received full expenses related to the participation of 3 delegates (one per each meeting) and would have to stay only 5 to 6 days. This time, they received only support for one delegate and the other delegates have to stay for more than two weeks and the cost was not tolerable for many developing countries.
Nepal	It was cost effective too.

Netherlands	convening concurrent meetings resulted in some cost savings, notably as regards coordination (staff time and facilities, interpretation) A negative impact on cost-effectiveness resulted from the need for some staff participating in the COP-MOPs to stay for longer than the one-week period of previous COP-MOPs. Such negative impacts should be mitigated by starting the COP-MOPs five to seven days later than the COP, which would focus in the first week on COP-specific agenda items and on COP-aspects of items to be discussed later in proximity with COP-MOP discussions.
Norway	This is hard to judge.
Peru	uno de los mayores inconvenientes es que en las entidades del estado, las autorizaciones de viaje por periodos largos es mucho más dificultosos para su aprobación
Sao Tome	We fully participate at all conference of Parties-CdP. But, we didn't participate in the last convention (13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties) because lack of communication.
Seychelles	The length of the meetings were reduced so in that sense more cost effective
South Africa	Costs might have been saved but to the disadvantage of maximum participation of developing countries least developing small island states and countries with their economies in transition which was greatly compromised.
Switzerland	While in general the convening of concurrent meetings might increase cost-effectiveness, a larger number of delegates may be required due to the number of parallel sessions. Furthermore, there may be different delegates involved in different topics, which in terms of personal resources may not extensively increase cost-effectiveness.
Uganda	Since only one delegate was supported by CBD Secretariat it is not possible to assess the cost effectiveness of the meetings

Country	Cost-effectiveness with respect to the need to have experts on matters related to the Cartagena Protocol present during the entire two-week period of the concurrent meetings;
Austria	Costs for Parties to the Cartagena Protocol doubled compared to former meetings. A better structured Agenda, which would not make it necessary for delegates for the Cartagena Protocol to stay for the whole duration would be preferable.
Belgium	There may be a trade-off between the need for experts to stay two weeks for CP COP-MOP versus increased cost-effectiveness when sharing experts between CBD COP and Protocols COP-MOPs; we would need to consider the added value of the increased integration more in depth and in the longer term to draw conclusions and to optimize the balance.
Bénin	la nécessité d'avoir des experts sur les questions liées au Protocole de Cartagena ne présente pas trop d'enjeux parce que des experts existent mais des ressources manquent
Canada	Not cost effective. • For Canada, some of the experts were there to only support discussion on one of the

	Protocols, but had to remain on site for the duration of the two week period. For certain countries it could be more cost effective to separate the meetings.
China	For representatives only attend the Cartagena Protocol MOP, the duration is 2 times longer and the cost is increased accordingly.
Costa Rica	As the Secretariat did not provide resources for the participation of the Cartagena Focal Point, it had to attend without technical support, which hinders the participation of a single individual in all working groups as well as in meetings between regional groups
Cuba	Not two weeks, only the specific days agreed for discussion.
Czech Republic	The cost for participation of experts on matters related especially to biosafety increased. On the other hand the concurrent meetings are more effective for delegates dealing with organisation and financial matters.
Denmark	see above comment
European Union	Convening concurrent meetings resulted in some cost-savings, notably as regards coordination, facilities, interpretation] A negative impact on cost-effectiveness resulted from the need for some staff participating in the COP-MOPs to stay for longer than the one-week period of previous COP-MOPs. Such negative impacts should be mitigated by starting the COP-MOPs some days later than the COP, which would focus in the first days on COP-specific agenda items and on COP-aspects of items to be discussed later in proximity with COP-MOP discussions. With the experience gained, the EU and its MS expect cost-savings to increase for future COPs and COP-MOPs. Solid preparation before the COP and COP-MOPs, notably in SBSTTA and SBI, and shorter and more focused agendas and decisions are important in this respect.
Finland	We did have experts over the two weeks time but they did have to deal with also broader COP matters.
Grenada	This was not evident
Guatemala	Comments: There were important topics that were not attended by our delegation since our delegation was a reduced number
Guinee-Bissau	je crois que ça vaudrait la peine l'investissement tenant compte des résultats acquis.
India	Convening concurrent meetings of CoP and MoPs can be more cost effective, especially in terms of CPB experts being present for the entire two week period.
Jamaica	if countries were not provided funds to support the participation of their representatives for the protocols then while cost effective it does not allow for all possible experts to attend.
Madagascar	It would be more efficient to increase countries participation other than calling for experts during a long period

Mali	la presence des spécialistes saveur nécessaire pour les deux semaines de reunions.
Nepal	Nepal is not yet a Party for this.
Netherlands	convening concurrent meetings resulted in some costsavings, notably as regards coordination (staff time and facilities, interpretation) A negative impact on cost-effectiveness resulted from the need for some staff participating in the COP-MOPs to stay for longer than the one-week period of previous COP-MOPs. Such negative impacts should be mitigated by starting the COP-MOPs five to seven days later than the COP, which would focus in the first week on COP-specific agenda items and on COP-aspects of items to be discussed later in proximity with COP-MOP discussions.
Peru	no se logró por la misma razón anterior
Sao Tome	We fully participate at all conference of Parties-CdP. But, we didn't participate in the last convention (13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties) because lack of communication.
Senegal	Bon niveau de prise en charge des questions relatives à la gestion des risques, cependant, des difficultés ont été notées dans la clarté conceptuelle portant sur les considérations socio-économiques.
Slovenia	Experts of small delegations covered also other COP issues
South Africa	Where one delegate could access sponsorship to attend they would still not sit in one venue for the entire period of their stay as they would be hopping from one session to the other trying to catch up with COP13 MOP2 and MOP88 discussions
Uganda	Since only one delegate was supported by CBD Secretariat it is not possible to assess the cost effectiveness of the experts on matters related to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
Ukraine	Not applicable because of the delegation consisted of only one representative.

Country	Improved consultations, coordination and synergies among national focal points for the Convention and the Protocols;
Algeria	Coordination between the different focal points was difficult during the meetings because sometimes only focal points were the only ones representing their countries, hence the difficulties of coordination
Austria	During the negotiations in some Contact Groups it became clear that coordination on a national level among the focal points needs to be improved.
Bénin	La coordination existe a tous les niveaux mais c'est les ressources qui existent pas
Burundi	There is no synergy among national focal points for the Convention and the Protocols because the focal points of the Protocols are not represented (case of many developing countries).
Canada	• Do not believe this criteria was met. These people meet at the national level and the way that the working groups were organized the Protocols were always in one room and

	the CBD issues mainly in another room (except where they overlapped with the Protocols) making coordination and synergies challenging.
China	To improve the consultations, coordination and synergies among national focal points, simply putting issues to be discussed under one agenda is not enough, more sophisticated preparation and arrangements are needed to achieve the objective.
Costa Rica	There was a very valuable opportunity for synergies between the focal points, which favors country positions and regional agreements
Côte d'Ivoire	Pour moi cette façon de faire a renforcé la coordination et la synergie entre les points focaux nationaux pour la Convention et les Protocoles
Czech Republic	It was interesting to organize the HLS meeting before the COP, especially when its outcomes were so positive, however the HLS meeting, namely the participation of the ministers and other high-level representatives plays an important role in the final negotiations. In this regard, we would prefer to have the HLS meeting at the end of the COP
Democratic Republic of Congo	We suggest regional meetings of focal point to debate relevant issues for the obtained of coordination and synergies.
Denmark	Running concurrent meetings absolutely improved consultation, coordination and synergies among the focal points and Denmark believes that this will only improve further at future meetings as parties build on lessons learnt. It also fostered better understanding of the tree instruments and ensured a much more holistic approach in the preparation of the meetings. Having delegates which follows 2 or tree of the instruments proved very valuable
Ecuador	Ecuador think this point was improve because many focal points had an opportunity to share information and visions around the technical issues among the agendas for Convention and its Protocols.
European Union	Convening concurrent meetings has encouraged more coherent consultations, coordination and synergies. Experience gained in Cancun is a good basis for further strengthening of such consultation, coordination and synergies.
Finland	Consultations were required and this made the whole delegation more aware of issues overarching COP and the protocols. State of art sometimes in the different processes difficult to follow (timing in WGs).
Grenada	No evidence to determine this properly but the hunch is moving in the right direction
Guatemala	Number of participants of developing countries not necessarily were good enough, for this reason, synergies among focal points of the Convention and its protocols was not satisfactory reached.
Guinee-Bissau	Il est fondamental d'assurer la participation simultanée des 3 Points Focaux aux rencontres de la COP et COP-MOP's
India	Presence of NFPs, delegates and experts on CBD, NP and CPB for the entire two-week

	period can enhance coordination and synergies.
Iran	our observation shows that the internal differences of views increased particularly where the NFPs were different for the 3 instruments.
Jamaica	It is not known if all focal points were supported or were able to attend the meetings. If not then this would not be considered effective.
Madagascar	The time allocated for each theme is not sufficient
Mali	du fait de réunir les points focaux Durant 2 semaines a permis d'échange sur des sujets importants et ont apporté un certains nombre de solutions aux problèmes confrontés par d'autres parties.
Mexico	Holding concurrent meetings allowed better coordination among the 3 national focal points, by knowing each other activities at national and international level, priorities and to align national positions. Furthermore, it allowed better coordination during negotiations, motivating internal consultations and integrated analysis of the evolution of the topics.
Nepal	National focal points were working together for the agreements and resolutions.
Netherlands	convening concurrent meetings has encouraged more coherent consultations, coordination and synergies. Experience gained in Cancun is a good basis for further strengthening of such consultation, coordination and synergies.
Peru	en este punto si considero que hubo interacción entre puntos focales nacionales tanto como para el CDB y sus Protocolos, esta organización brindó dicha oportunidad.
Sao Tome	We fully participate at all conference of Parties-CdP. But, we didn't participate in the last convention (13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties) because lack of communication.
Slovakia	Convening concurrent meetings has encouraged more coherent consultations, coordination and synergies. Experience gained in Cancun is a good basis for further strengthening of such consultation, coordination and synergies.
Slovenia	Increased awareness of overarching issues among CBD and the Protocols.
South Africa	Comments: All experts under one roof and contributing to cross cutting issues as well as contributing in resolving and coming up with suggestions on areas with bpotential to block negotiations
Sudan	For those who participated. For most of the developing countries the criteria was not met because of only one participant attended the meeting
Uganda	Since only one delegate was supported by CBD Secretariat it is not possible to make a conclusion on whether or not there was improvement in consultations, coordination and synergies among focal points for the Convention and the Protocols. But consultations among focal points different Parties that were present during the meeting was enhanced

	than in the previous COP
Ukraine	Not applicable because of the national focal points for the Convention and the Protocols are presented by the same person.

Country	Additional comments related to the convening of concurrent meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol.
Algeria	On the technical level it would be more interesting to organize the COP MOPs of Cartagena and Nagoya protocols first, which will be followed by the Conference of the Parties. Even if the number of delegates is not large, those present can ensure the continuity of meetings and the burden is diminished.
Argentina	It should be taken into account that some delegations, especially those coming from developing and less developed countries, are quite small, so, even though concurrent meetings are more cost-effective than separate sessions, the Secretariat should avoid scheduling important meetings at the same time. This is important to allow developing and less developed countries' delegations to participate effectively.
Austria	The use of the gavel in the plenary was too excessive (when we switched from COP to MOPS), and by that pretty ridiculous - a better solution should be found. The contact groups take too much time - compared with the results. The contact group on budget took for sure too much time! That should really be improved - at least from the secretariats side they should meanwhile know what kind of information we need and in which format. I apologize, the EU was part of the problem, but sometimes we had to wait hours for the secretariat to bring the correct papers.
Belarus	I would like to underline that it was a good idea to hold a High Level Meeting before the concurrent meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its Protocols. This Cancun Declaration adopted at the meeting of the High-Level Segment identified the main goals of 13COP-MOP-8COP CP-2COP NP.
Bénin	Aujourd'hui il est clair que si on veut augmenter l'out put des rencontres il faut des financer la participation des Points Focaux qui doivent aider à la mise en œuvre de la convention. Par ailleurs des besoins de renforcement de capacité existe en matière des dispositifs législatifs qu'il faut financer
Bolivia	Congratulations to the Government of Mexico for the organization of COP-13, and particularly for having innovated with the implementation of the high-level segment, which allowed delegates to be guided in the COP discussions.
Bulgaria	The organization and implementation of the three meetings at the same time for a period of two weeks, allowing for increased synergies and partners between the NFP of the Convention and its two Protocols. There was an opportunity for general discussions and joint decisions. We propose to consider if it is possible MOPs finish 2-3 days before the closing of COP and to enable effective finalization of sensitive and problematic issues in recent days.
Canada	• While in general the convening of concurrent meetings was a good idea, it did result in less time to discuss important issues at the CBD, such as Article 8j, marine and coastal, capacity building, restoration (a target which is not being met), and an overemphasis on other issues, such as synergies. • Holding the meetings at the same site as the hotel venue was key and is critical; however many Parties were unable to stay at the main venue because the cost was extreme. It is important to find venues that are not so expensive. • Chairing of meetings was problematic – training of chairs is needed for working group chairs as well as contact group chairs. Some were good, others were poor. Other conventions provide

	training prior to the meeting.
Costa Rica	It is essential to have the necessary financial resources to ensure the participation of the focal points of the protocols of the Convention
Côte d'Ivoire	Bonne continuation pour la convocation de réunions simultanées de la Convention sur la diversité biologique, le Protocole de Carthagène et le Protocole de Nagoya.
Cuba	When I think in this model, it comes to my mind how will be the Conference of Parties when Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur enter into force , with their specific issues, and I wonder if only one expert to be nominated by Secretariat is ready for doing a right representation of his country. I think that the finance of participation of developing countries should be connected with the amount of instruments the countries are parties, if a country is only party of Convention, they only receive one ticket, and if they belong two instruments, they receive at least two tickets. This modality does not solve huge problem, but can create better condition to use better the political spaces for discussion amongst Parties States in every existing instrument under Convene.
Czech Republic	It was interesting to organize the HLS meeting before the COP, especially when its outcomes were so positive, however the HLS meeting, namely the participation of the ministers and other high-level representatives plays an important role in the final negotiations. In this regard, we would prefer to have the HLS meeting at the end of the COP.
Democratic Republic of Congo	It was the first good experience for parallel meeting
Denmark	To follow and navigate in tree concurrent negotiations seemed very difficult at times. Therefore it is extremely important to ensure clear communication regarding the planning of the day and the various sessions. Moreover screens which shows what agenda item is discussed and which item that will follow is also very important. Basically visual communication of the plan of the session is crucial. Last minute changes should be avoided as much as possible
Ecuador	Ecuador consider appropriate to value the high level segment at first of meetings because some topics needed to unlock with a political vision from authorities such as previous COP meetings. Ecuador also suggest evaluate the time of COP meetings because we consider two weeks is a few time to threaten all the topics from the agendas.
European Union	Concurrent meetings led also to some confusion as to proceedings and the actual document to be discussed or voted on and to longer waiting time until some documents were issued. The EU and its MS plead for an efficient and organization of the agenda of the working groups based on a continuous and strong clustering of subject matters, whilst recognizing the need to adapt to progress in negotiations, avoid as much as possible last-minute changes to the agenda. This applies equally to the SBSTTA that will now also deal with issues relevant to the two Protocols (risk assessment under the Cartagena Protocol and digital sequence information under CBD and Nagoya Protocol).
Finland	The convening of the COP- and the protocols meetings and timing during the two weeks can still be looked at and experiences used, and probably improved by pre-COP preparations including pre-meeting guidance (in written "some sort of living handbook - document"); on aim, content, how to negotiate and proceed, level of decisions, differences between the protocols and convention, horizontal issues for instance; capacity building, GEF, budget etc.
Germany	To resolve outstanding issues the High Level Segment should be placed at the end of the meetings.
Ghana	Ghana fully supports the convening of the concurrent meetings of the Convention and its

	supplementary protocols
Grenada	Efforts should be made to have more representation from SIDS and LDCs for each of the three instruments as appropriate. Reduced meeting time was great integration of budgets and trust funds welcomed efforts must be made to reduce agenda items
Guatemala	There is necessary to support more participants from developing countries so that the convening of concurrent meetings could reach better outcomes.
Guinee-Bissau	Faire fonctionner le ABSCH en version française pour une meilleur maîtrise de la part des Parties non Anglophones. Faire l'effort pour produire les texts base à la discussion en différents langues de travail des NU.
Honduras	A single person can't attend the three meetings at the same time, so it is recommended to hold the meetings separately or expand the budget so that 3 people (3 focal points) can attend.
India	Lessons learnt from CoP-13 may be used in planning for the next CoP.
Iran	Due to the shortage of financial support (1 DSA for each country instead of 3 DSAs for each country) and long time for holding 3 meetings concurrently (2 weeks instead of 6 days for each meeting), Iranian delegation could not fully attend to the meetings and express their opinions. Therefore, Iran is opposed to holding these 3 meetings concurrently.
Madagascar	Allocate sufficient funding for the participation of at least the three focal points Build capacity to ensure that at least the three focal points are familiar with the content of the Convention and its protocols
Malaysia	To ensure that the Plenary Session can be attended with full attendance by Parties, it is advisable for the Secretariat to follow the planned time frame.
Mali	A mon avis je pense que la tenue de ses reunions simultanées est un atout pour l'avancé de la mise en œuvre de la convention et ses protocoles. Mais, il est important que le secrétariat aide les pays sous développés à être plus représentatifs (financement).
Mexico	Time was more efficiently managed and integrated decisions were adopted with a view to achieve CBD objectives and more coherence in the operations of the Convention. The challenge now is to achieve integration among CBD and its Protocols when implementing decisions
Mozambique	It's important to mobilize financial resources to support the participation of all three Focal Points of the convention and its Protocols for all eligible countries.
Nepal	In General the meeting was very successful and Nepal was also benefitted a lot from the COP. Nepal is going to ratify the Nagoya Protocol soon. Biodiversity Conservation in Nepal was a lessons for many countries as we the government and community are working in tandem.
Netherlands	Concurrent meetings led also to some confusion as to proceedings and the actual document to be discussed or voted on and to longer waiting time until some documents were issued. The Netherlands plead for a more efficient and predictable organisation of the agenda of the Working Groups. This applies equally to the SBSTTA that will now also deal with issues relevant to the two Protocols (risk assessment under the Cartagena Protocol and digital sequence information under CBD and Nagoya Protocol).
Niger	Synergy and coordination among focal points well developed in sharing experiences

Norway	The experiences from the Cancun-meetings are important to keep in mind in the planning for the next COP and COP-MOPs. Both the secretariat and the bureaux must have this as a topic for their meetings. An attempt to reduce the number of agenda items might be considered. We should develop some procedures for issues such as the financial mechanism, we have to identify potential areas of synergy and plan for avoiding parallel meetings of such issues. Most important, we the parties must take on the responsibility to prevent too many issues, we should also try to restrict the length of our decisions.
Pakistan	If the secretariat wishes to continue with the format of CoP-13 then at least two participants from each eligible party shall be invited.
Peru	del CDB y sus protocolos, favoreciendo el intercambio. Se requiere mayores esfuerzos para organizar los horarios de los grupos de contacto, porque con delegaciones pequeñas no era posible la participación y se cruzaban las reuniones. Otro punto, es que los documentos requieren estar listos con tiempo prudente para las consultas internas en los países. En general, considero conveniente la concurrencia de reuniones del CDB y sus protocolos. Sin embargo, se debe mejorar la organización de los debates a fin que, algunos temas, no se prolonguen innecesariamente, produciéndose una suerte de “estancamiento” en alguna de las reuniones (COP CDB o COP MOP) en desmedro de las otras. Uno de los factores a considerar es que algunos documentos de proyectos de decisión se distribuyeron en fechas muy cercanas a la realización de la COP y COPMOP; tal es el caso del glosario de términos para el Artículo 8 j). O, por otro lado, hace falta propiciar reuniones previas para la preparación de alguno de estos documentos, siendo así que algunos países recién durante los grupos de contacto podemos poner de manifiesto las posiciones nacionales, quedando muy corto el tiempo para hacerlo con solvencia.
Peru	Los especialistas que ven los temas del CDB, PCB y PN-ABS no son los mismos; por tanto, su permanencia en tanto se negocian asuntos que no le corresponden resta efectividad al viaje y sobre costos a los países en mantenerlos por tantos días.
Philippines	Convening concurrent meetings should continue as it improves coordination and collaboration among focal points
Republic of Korea	Considering the delegation that participates in one COP-MOP, CBD may adjust the schedule so that on the two MOPs discussions can be completed on the first week
Sao Tome	Perhaps Sao Tome and Principe has not participated in the meetings of the parties because it had not yet ratified the protocol. Now that the country has ratified, I hope to be able to participate actively in the next meetings and also at COP14-MOP
Sao Tome	It is very difficult for one solo member representing in the Full to be effective participation of represent of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, in the 8th meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol;
Senegal	Pour l'avenir, il faudrait que le Secrétariat de la CDB prenne en charge un participant par traité (CDB, PN, PC) pour les pays éligibles.
Seychelles	Concurrent plenary sessions was too hectic and quite confusing which made meeting less smooth than in previous COP sessions
Slovakia	We consider the mixing of different issues as happened at COP-MOP 8 throughout one day of negotiations in one meeting room was time-consuming for the delegates also due to the very changeable daily schedule. The agenda items of the protocols should be dealt in more coherent way during the conference

	days, creation of units/blocks of several agenda items of the protocols preferred. This will be needed especially when the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol On Liability And Redress enters into force.
Slovenia	Small delegations were faced with difficulties to coordinate and follow many parallel decision making processes.
South Africa	It was a very good start and had very minor areas that required improvement such as raising more funds to enhance participation of developing countries least developed, SIDS and countries with economies in transition. Holding the HLMS has merits and de-merits particularly when issues of finances threaten to block negotiations and all the high level participants are gone..
Spain	It is impossible for the experts to attend a meeting for two consecutive weeks. Most of the time experts had to attend meetings that were not of the corresponding subject because it was not easy to know how much each point of the agenda lasts. Low Cost-effectiveness. Much staff needs to be mobilized. Different perception and evaluation between both protocols and convention
St. Kitts and Nevis	The concurrent meetings of all three entities presents a serious challenge for developing countries especially Small Island Developing States as only one participant is funded by the Secretariat to participate in these meetings. It is therefore challenging and next to impossible for this one person to follow all the events. There is a definite need to sponsor or support more than one participant.
Sudan	Generally the concurrent meetings are cost effective, increase integration among the Convention and its Protocols and provide an opportunity for consultations, coordination and synergies among national focal points for the Convention and the Protocols if more representatives are provided with financial support, otherwise, most of the criteria listed above will not be met
Uganda	1. The High Level Segment (HLS) was held before the start of COP. Much as this helped to give political guidance, it was not as effective as when held towards the end of COP like has been case in the previous COPs. HLS should be held COP towards the end of COP. This makes it possible for delegates/Parties to brief their Ministers or heads of Delegation on how the negotiations are progressing and the contentious issues that may/will require their intervention. 2. Contact groups meetings should not be held in parallel (at the same time) with working group meetings. 3. A minimum of three (3) delegates from developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition should be supported by the CBD Secretariat in order for them to fully and effectively participate in the concurrent meetings; cost-effectiveness of the meetings and improvement in coordination, consultations and synergies among focal points. 4. Working loads for the working groups should be apportioned equally as much as possible. This will mean looking critically at the agendas and prioritizing them. Those that are not so critical can be taken to the next COP. 5. The visa processing should as much as possible be made easy by the Host country for delegates to get to minimize late arrival of some delegates at the meeting.
Zimbabwe	Running the meetings concurrently limits the participation of developing countries as their delegations are small