

NON-PAPER

CONTACT GROUP ON SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY

[3. *Agrees* that regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessing of technological developments is needed for reviewing new information regarding the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology vis-à-vis the three objectives of the Convention and those of its Protocols;]

[3 *alt Agrees* that regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessing of developments, including those that may result from genome editing, is needed for reviewing new information regarding the potential positive and potential negative impacts of synthetic biology vis-à-vis the three objectives of the Convention and those of its Protocols;]

...

[10. Calls upon Parties and other Governments, taking into account the current uncertainties regarding engineered gene drives, to apply a precautionary approach,¹ in accordance with the objectives of the Convention;]

[10 *bis*. Also calls upon Parties and other Governments to [consider][avoid] introducing organisms containing engineered gene drives into the environment, including for experimental releases and research and development purposes, only [after appropriate] [until] case-by-case risk assessments have been carried out and risk management-measures [as appropriate.] are in place to minimize possible adverse effects. [and when free, prior and informed consent of potentially affected indigenous peoples and local communities is sought in accordance with national circumstances]

Annex

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP
ON SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY**

The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology shall:

...

(f) Recommend options for carrying out the regular horizon scanning, monitoring and assessing of developments referred to in paragraph 3 above.

¹ See decision XIII/17.