



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.: General

12 June 2026

Original: English

**Conference of the Parties to the Convention on
Biological Diversity serving as the meeting of the
Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
Twelfth meeting**

Yerevan, 19–30 October 2026

Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

Report of the Compliance Committee

Report of the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on its twentieth and twenty-first meetings

I. Introduction

1. During the intersessional period that followed the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol held two meetings: its twentieth meeting, from 27 to 29 May 2025, and its twenty-first meeting, from 10 to 12 June 2026. Both meetings were held at the offices of the Secretariat, in Montreal, Canada.
2. The present document contains a consolidated summary of the discussions and outcomes of the two meetings. The recommendations of the Committee to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol are contained in annex I to the present report.
3. The full reports of the Committee on the work of its twentieth and twenty-first meetings,¹ as well as the working documents for each meeting, are available on the website of the Secretariat.

II. Consolidated summary of discussions and outcomes

4. At its twentieth meeting, the Committee elected Yan Liu as Chair and Casper Linnestad as Vice-Chair, in accordance with rule 12.1 of the rules of procedure for the meetings of the Compliance Committee.
5. At the same meeting, the Committee considered the outcomes of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol regarding items relevant to compliance and welcomed the positive consideration of and the limited changes to its recommendations by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. In its discussions on decision [CP-11/1 B](#), the Committee noted that its recommendation to caution seven Parties had likely contributed to the submission, before the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, of fourth national reports by four of those Parties.

* [CBD/CP/MOP/12/1](#).

¹ [CBD/CC/20/6](#) and [CBD/CC/21/5](#), respectively.

6. The Committee welcomed the discussions that the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol had held on its recommendation regarding the implications of diverging interpretations of the definition of “living modified organism” and varying legislative approaches, and the resulting adoption of decision [CP-11/1 C](#).

7. Also at its twentieth meeting, the Committee reviewed compliance by Parties on the basis of information in the Biosafety Clearing-House. It welcomed the ongoing efforts made by Parties to maintain accurate and complete information in the Biosafety Clearing-House and requested the Executive Secretary to continue to follow up and liaise with Parties in that regard. It also made several recommendations in that regard for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, at its twelfth meeting, as reflected in annex I below.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee reviewed general issues of compliance and decided on several follow-up actions concerning compliance by Parties, focusing in particular on the obligation to take the necessary measures to implement the Protocol and the obligation to submit national reports.

9. Also at its twentieth meeting, the Committee welcomed the fourth national reports that had been published since its nineteenth meeting. It was concerned, however, that 12 Parties had still not submitted a fourth national report and agreed to consider those cases at its twenty-first meeting in the context of its review of compliance with the obligation to submit fifth national reports.

10. Given that only fifth national reports submitted by Parties that had published their fourth national reports through the Biosafety Clearing-House would be considered in the fifth assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol and the midterm evaluation of the implementation plan for the Protocol, the Committee decided to focus its follow-up efforts on the eight Parties that had submitted their fourth national reports offline only. The Committee requested the Executive Secretary to write to the national focal points of the Parties concerned to request them to publish their national reports through the Biosafety Clearing-House.

11. In its consideration of general issues of compliance at its twentieth and twenty-first meetings, the Committee considered the outcome of communications between the Secretariat and Parties that had reported that national measures were fully or partially in place but that either had not published any measures through the Clearing-House or had published only a national biosafety framework developed under the United Nations Environment Programme project funded by the Global Environment Facility on the development of national biosafety frameworks. It welcomed the publication of such measures through the Clearing-House by several of the Parties concerned. At its twenty-first meeting, the Committee requested the Secretariat to continue to follow up with the remaining Parties to request that they upload the relevant measures as a matter of urgency.

12. In its consideration of general issues of compliance at its twenty-first meeting, the Committee considered an update on the status of the designation of focal points and the submission of fourth and fifth national reports.

13. The Committee welcomed that all Parties that were able to do so had designated their Biosafety Clearing-House national focal points, but noted with concern that one Party had still not designated a national focal point for the Protocol. It also expressed concern that numerous Parties had still not provided the information on their competent national authorities or their points of contact required under Article 17 for publication through the Biosafety Clearing-House. The Committee requested the Executive Secretary to follow up with the Parties concerned.

14. At the same meeting, the Committee noted with appreciation that 119 Parties had submitted their fifth national reports by the reporting deadline of 28 February 2026. It welcomed the efforts by the Secretariat, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Environment Facility to support Parties technically and financially with the preparation and publication of their national reports.

15. The Committee discussed the experiences related to the preparation of the fifth national report. It recognized the benefits of synchronized reporting for the sharing of information under the Convention and its Protocols, while acknowledging that the submission of the different reports on the same date posed challenges for many Parties, particularly for Parties with limited human resource capacities.

16. The Committee considered ways in which support for future reporting could be strengthened, including by making support available further in advance of the reporting deadline.

17. The Committee agreed on follow-up actions with Parties that had not submitted a fifth national report.

18. The Committee welcomed the additional fourth national reports submitted and published through the Biosafety Clearing-House since its twentieth meeting, including several reports that had previously been submitted only offline, but expressed concern that five Parties had not yet submitted either their fourth or fifth national reports. It decided to follow up with the Parties concerned and agreed to consider the matter at its twenty-second meeting in the context of individual cases of non-compliance.

19. At its twentieth and twenty-first meetings, in the context of the review of individual cases of non-compliance, the Committee continued its consideration of non-compliance by individual Parties with the obligation to report (Article 33) and non-compliance with the obligation to take the necessary and appropriate legal, administrative and other measures to implement the obligations under the Protocol (Article 2, para. 1).

20. Further to decision [CP-11/1 B](#), in which three Parties had been cautioned for not having submitted their third or fourth national reports and had been requested to submit their fourth national reports as a matter of urgency, the Committee continued its efforts to support the three Parties. At its twentieth meeting, the Committee expressed its appreciation to the Global Environment Facility for the additional support that it had offered to the three Parties to facilitate the preparation of their fourth national reports. At its twenty-first meeting, the Committee welcomed the publication through the Biosafety Clearing-House of a fourth and fifth national report by two of the three Parties. It also welcomed the fact that those two Parties had availed themselves of the financial support that had been offered by the Global Environment Facility for the development of their reports. The Committee made several recommendations in that context for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, at its twelfth meeting.

21. At the same meeting, the Committee welcomed the recent communications between the Secretariat and the one remaining Party that had been cautioned in decision [CP-11/1 B](#). It agreed to recommendations should the Party not submit its fifth national report prior to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

22. Over its twentieth and twenty-first meetings, the Committee considered 7 new compliance action plans, bringing the total number of plans under its active consideration to 18. The Committee discussed progress with each plan and decided on follow up specific to each individual case.

23. At its twenty-first meeting, the Committee engaged in informal online exchanges with three Parties with compliance action plans under active consideration to discuss progress made and any challenges with respect to the implementation of their plans. The Committee was of the view that the exchanges had been useful in addition to the regular follow-up undertaken on behalf of the Committee and were an efficient and effective means of communicating with Parties on progress made and challenges faced in that regard.

24. The Committee noted with regret that three other Parties had not replied to the invitation from the Chair of the Committee to participate in an informal exchange at its twenty-first meeting and agreed to invite the Parties to an online exchange with the Committee to be held after the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

25. At the same meeting, the Committee expressed concern that, on multiple occasions, six Parties had not responded to the requests by the Committee to prepare compliance action plans. The Committee decided to invite the national focal points of the Parties to online exchanges during its twenty-second meeting as an alternative means of encouraging them to prepare their compliance action plans.

26. Also at its twenty-first meeting, the Committee provided input to the fifth assessment and review of the Protocol and the midterm evaluation of the implementation plan and capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol. The Committee reviewed goal A.4, as well as information provided under related goals with particular emphasis on compliance aspects and its work in that regard.

27. The Committee agreed on its contribution to the fifth assessment and review of the Protocol and midterm evaluation of the implementation plan and the capacity-building action plan for the Protocol as contained in annex II.

Annex I

Recommendations of the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its twelfth meeting*

I. Compliance

1. The Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety recommends that, at its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol

1. *Notes* that a number of Parties have not designated the national focal points, competent national authorities or contact points required under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;²

2. *Reminds* Parties of their obligation to designate their national focal points for the Cartagena Protocol, in compliance with Article 19 of the Protocol, and of the need to designate their Biosafety Clearing-House national focal points, in accordance with the modalities of operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House, and to keep the information up to date;³

3. *Also reminds* Parties of their obligation to make available through the Biosafety Clearing-House the contact details of one or more competent national authorities, in accordance with Article 19 of the Cartagena Protocol, and urges those Parties that have not yet done so to make that information available, as a matter of priority;

4. *Further reminds* Parties of their obligation to designate a point of contact for the purposes of receiving notifications under Article 17 of the Cartagena Protocol, and urges those that have not yet done so to make such designations as soon as possible;

5. *Urges* Parties that are developing their biosafety regulatory frameworks to expedite their work, recognizing that Parties are required under the Cartagena Protocol to take measures for its implementation and that such measures will contribute to achieving Target 17 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,⁴ and welcomes the support provided in that regard to several Parties by the United Nations Environment Programme, through its Law and Environment Assistance Platform, and Japan, through the Japan Biodiversity Fund;

6. *Reminds* Parties of their obligation to publish their legal measures for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol through the Biosafety Clearing-House;

7. *Recalls* the caution in decision [CP-11/1 B](#) of 30 October 2024, and welcomes the funding extended by the Global Environment Facility to the cautioned Parties to prepare their fourth and fifth national reports;

8. *Welcomes* the submission of the fourth and fifth national reports by Belize and Libya, which resolves their non-compliance with the reporting obligation;

9. *Expresses grave concern* that Papua New Guinea has not submitted its third, fourth or fifth national report;

10. *Requests* the Committee to consider possible measures to address the repeated non-compliance of Papua New Guinea with its reporting obligation and make a recommendation in that

* Following the practice adopted at previous meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, recommendations may be allocated to the agenda items to which they are most closely related.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

³ Decision [BS-I/3](#), annex.

⁴ Decision [15/4](#), annex.

regard to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol for consideration at its thirteenth meeting;

11. *Encourages* Parties facing difficulties complying with one or more obligations under the Cartagena Protocol to seek assistance from the Compliance Committee under the Protocol or the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.⁵

II. Operation and activities of the Biosafety Clearing-House

2. The Compliance Committee recommends that, at its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopt a decision that includes the following elements:

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol

1. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts made by Parties to maintain accurate and complete information in the Biosafety Clearing-House;
2. *Reminds* Parties of their obligation to publish the final decisions taken regarding the import or release of living modified organisms and corresponding summaries of risk assessments through the Biosafety Clearing-House, in compliance with Article 20 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.⁶

III. Monitoring and reporting

3. The Compliance Committee recommends that, at its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopt a decision that includes the following elements:

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol

1. *Welcomes* the fact that more than two thirds of Parties submitted their fifth national reports on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety⁷ by the reporting deadline;
2. *Reminds* those Parties that have not yet submitted their fifth national reports to do so as soon as possible through the Biosafety Clearing-House;
3. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Global Environment Facility and the United Nations Environment Programme for the support provided to eligible Parties for the preparation and submission of their fifth national reports.

IV. Matters related to the financial mechanism and resources

4. The Compliance Committee recommends that, at its twelfth meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopt a decision that includes the following elements:

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol

Recommends that, at its seventeenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,⁸ in its guidance to the financial mechanism, request the Global Environment Facility to make funds available in a timely manner to support eligible Parties in the preparation and

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619

submission of their sixth national reports on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.⁹

⁹ Ibid., vol. 2226, No. 30619.

Annex II

Contribution by the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the fifth assessment and review of the Protocol and midterm evaluation of the implementation plan and the capacity-building action plan for the Protocol

The Compliance Committee recommends that, as its contribution to the fifth assessment and review of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and midterm evaluation of the implementation plan and the capacity-building action plan for the Protocol, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, at its seventh meeting, consider the following elements for its recommended draft decision for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its twelfth meeting:

1. Welcome progress made by Parties in complying with their obligations under the Protocol, notably those concerning the submission of national reports and the publishing of information on the Biosafety Clearing-House;
2. Also welcome the high rate of compliance with the obligation to designate national focal points;
3. Note with appreciation the progress made by Parties in designating competent national authorities but express concern that a small group of Parties have still not designated their competent national authorities and urge them to do so as soon as possible;
4. Welcome the supportive role of the Compliance Committee and acknowledge the importance of its regular and incremental follow-up with Parties on compliance matters, the formal compliance measures and the informal efforts of the Compliance Committee in support of compliance and achieving goal A.4 of the implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
5. Request Parties to fully cooperate when receiving communications from the Compliance Committee;
6. Express concern that several Parties have not taken any measures or only draft or temporary measures for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol;
7. Request Parties that have not yet fully done so to, as a matter of priority, put in place legal, administrative and other measures to implement their obligations under the Cartagena Protocol and take action to secure the necessary political will and awareness, while acknowledging that Parties face various challenges that prevent them from fully complying with the obligations under Article 2 (1) of the Protocol;
8. Urge Parties that have not yet fully done so to make all required information available to the Biosafety Clearing-House and keep their records up to date, noting in particular that information on illegal and unintentional transboundary movements reported in the fifth national reports has not been shared through the Clearing-House in numerous instances;
9. Recommend that the Conference of the Parties, in adopting its guidance to the financial mechanism with respect to support for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, invite the Global Environment Facility to make specific funding available to eligible Parties to: (a) put in place legal, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the Protocol; and (b) support eligible Parties in implementing compliance action plans regarding the achievement of compliance with the Protocol;
10. Welcome the Committee's contribution to the fifth assessment and review of the Cartagena Protocol and midterm evaluation of the implementation plan for the Protocol and request

the Committee to continue providing a contribution to the sixth assessment and review and final evaluation of the implementation plan for the Protocol.
