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| **GERMANY: Statement SBSTTA-24****Agenda Item: 5, Risk Assessment and Risk Management of LMOs** |
| 19th February 2021 |

* Thank you, Chair.
* Germany would like to thank the Secretariat for document CBD/SBSTTA/24/5 and the draft recommendations therein. It is a good starting point for discussions under this agenda item.
* Germany supports continuing the work on risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms under the Cartagena Protocol and the process established in decision CP 9/13.
* Fundamental for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol is to continue the scientifically sound work on risk assessment and risk management of LMOs with appropriate procedures.
* To address the needs voiced by Parties on issues of risk assessment of LMOs, we consider capacity-building, cooperation and knowledge management important tools that need to be utilized and improved. A strong Biosafety Clearing-House is a key element in this context.
* We recommend making use of existing guidance materials and not to duplicate work.
* Any additional guidance materials developed must be of high technical and scientific quality, useful and applicable.
* Germany agrees to focus the efforts on the development of additional guidance materials for the risk assessment of LMOs containing engineered gene drives.
* The additional guidance materials should address general issues for conducting risk assessment of LMOs containing engineered gene drives and focus on upcoming applications in the near future, like mosquitoes containing engineered gene drives.
* Germany is flexible with respect to the development process for additional guidance materials for the risk assessment of LMOs containing engineered gene drives. However, it must be transparent and Party driven, roles of actors involved need to be clearly described and specific expertise should be included to ensure efficient progress.
* We are open to views and suggestions of other Parties and are prepared to make suggestions ourselves.
* We stand ready and committed to elaborate further on additional guidance materials for risk assessment of LMOs containing engineered gene drives.
* Thank you, Chair.