

On behalf of the European Union and its Member States

SBI- AI 4- Assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Madam Chair.

Distinguished Delegates,

The European Union and its Member States wish to thank the Secretariat for the synthesis and analysis of information for the fourth assessment and review and final evaluation of the strategic plan for the period 2011-2020 based on the available information. Likewise, we wish to thank the Compliance Committee and the Liaison Group for their contribution.

The analysis reveals positive and promising developments in several implementation areas; several goals of the strategic plan are close to accomplishment.

However, too many crucial areas of implementation raise concern. First and foremost, the alarmingly high number of Parties that still need to fully put in place a functioning biosafety framework calls for action. In our view, the full implementation in all Parties to the Protocol is of utmost importance. It should receive highest priority. The required action includes, but is not limited to, sufficient and specific capacity-building.

The fact that only 99 fourth national reports were available at the cut-off date for the review and evaluation weakens the analysis' validity! We would like to recall that the fourth national report shall build the basis for the post-2020 working period until 2030. Against this background, the EU and its MS emphasise the need for an updated analysis once 80% of the Parties have submitted their fourth national reports, preferably prior to COP-MOP 10.

We wish to underline the importance of a biosafety component in the post-2020 GBF as well as the importance of an implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol and a capacity-building action plan that addresses the Parties' needs and challenges.

The EU and its MS would like to highlight the positive developments regarding information-sharing on the Biosafety Clearing-House. The BCH is a widely accepted platform for information-sharing and knowledge management, and for supporting capacity-building. An increasing number of Parties have trained staff available and submit complete information, capacities are rising, and an increasing number of forums and discussions with broader participation are conducted. These developments reflect the important role of the BCH as a core element of the Protocol.

Further, while we consider the entry into force of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol in 2018 a big step forward, the high number of Parties to the CP that have not yet ratified the Supplementary Protocol are a matter of concern that requires immediate action.

Let me assure you that the European Union and its Members States stand ready and committed to working hard with you and all your colleagues towards a full implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and its Supplementary Protocol.

We agree with the general direction of the draft recommendations prepared by the Secretariat. We will submit in writing our minor suggested amendments to the Secretariat.

Thank you, Madam Chair.