

On behalf of the European Union and its Member States

SBI 3 - AI 5 Cartagena Protocol - Post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Madam Chair.

Distinguished Delegates,

The European Union and its Member States wish to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the draft recommendation of the implementation plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the draft capacity-building action plan for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and its Supplementary Protocol. Likewise, we wish to thank the Liaison Group for its valuable contributions.

Chair, the alarmingly high number of Parties that still need to fully put in place a functioning biosafety framework and the low number of Parties that have joined the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress raises concern and calls for action. Thus, even 20 years after it came into force, the full implementation of the provisions of the Cartagena Protocol in all Parties must still be the driver of our activities.

In this regard, we consider the drafted plans a very good starting point for discussions.

In our view, the goals and objectives of the implementation plan well address an effective and efficient implementation of both the Protocol and its Supplementary Protocol; and the key areas for capacity-building are well focused to support this. Both plans are based on experiences made during the last decade and ensure sufficient flexibility to account for developments to come and facilitate the monitoring process with simple and easily measurable indicators.

Chair, in the draft recommendation document, the implementation plan and capacity-building action plan are both presented in one table. However, the EU and its Member States remain strongly in favour of separating the two plans and directing them to individual decisions under their respective agenda items at COP-MOP 10. The EU and its Member States are convinced that capacity building is one of the pillars for a successful implementation of the Cartagena Protocol. This outstanding importance of capacity-building can best be adequately addressed with stand-alone documents that can be individually read and referenced.

Thus, we maintain that capacity-building activities should support the successful implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and we have added text also to strengthen this alignment. We suggest including indicators to measure the success of the capacity-building activities and their contribution to the outcomes, as well as a non-exhaustive, indicative list of possible actors and target groups for each activity.

We have suggestions for amendments to the draft recommendations, among others, in line with our proposal for two separate plans. We will submit these in writing to the Secretariat.

Let me assure you that the EU and its Member States stand ready and committed to working hard with you and all our colleagues towards a full implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and its Supplementary Protocol.

Thank you, Madam Chair.