



**Twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological
Advice (SBSTTA-26)**
13–18 May, 2024
Nairobi, Kenya

AGENDA ITEM 6: Risk Assessment and Risk Management

DATE: 13 MAY 2024

Statement on behalf of the **International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB)** delivered by: Kamal Kumar Rai, Nepal Indigenous Forum for Biodiversity

Dear Madam Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of International Indigenous Forum for Biodiversity.

IIFB welcomes the ATHEG report.

Madam Chair, we notice the progress on the human-rights based approach for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The living modified organisms containing engineered gene drive is complicated and uncertainties adverse impacts on species, biodiversity, to Mother Nature, food, health, in lands, waters, ecosystems, and territories, resources, traditional livelihoods and values of biodiversity. The various consequences of Living Modified Organism containing engineered gene drive such as mosquito and living modified fish can happen within and other species are not well known and that cause negative impacts too.

For Indigenous Peoples and local communities Mother Nature is alive and sacred. She has species and relationship with traditional knowledge, innovations, spiritual and cosmological values in conservation and customary sustainable use of biodiversity. The new and emerging issues Living Modified Organism containing engineered gene drive adverse impacts on biodiversity and conservation are not on the spirit and objectives of the convention.

Therefore, IIFB would like to make a proposal, to take into account the human rights based approach, Free, Prior and Informed Consent, voluntary guidelines and to follow the CBD Code of Ethical Conduct for working with Indigenous Peoples and local communities and precautionary approach.

Regarding to recommendations we suggest:

1. Further to the request in decision CP-10/10 to develop additional voluntary guidance materials to support case-by-case risk assessments of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives,

the Subsidiary Body may wish to recommend that, at its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopt elements of a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recalling decision CP-10/10 of 10 December 2022,



Twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-26)

13–18 May, 2024

Nairobi, Kenya

1. *Welcomes* the outcomes of the meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment;¹
2. *Endorses* the additional voluntary guidance materials on the risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives;
3. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and stakeholders, **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES** to make use of the additional voluntary guidance materials;
4. *Calls* for broad international cooperation, knowledge-sharing, **TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATION AND PRACTICES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES**, capacity-building **AS CULTURAL APPROPRIATE** and resource mobilization to support, inter alia, the application of the additional voluntary guidance materials.

2. Further to the requests in decision CP-10/10 to consider further guidance on living modified fish and additional issues on which guidance materials on risk assessment might be needed, the Subsidiary Body may wish to recommend that, at its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopt the following additional elements of a draft decision, noting that the elements are set out below without prejudice to its decision to proceed or not with the development of such guidance.

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recalling decision CP-10/10 of 10 December 2022,

Taking note of the assessment by the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment of additional issues on which guidance materials on risk assessment may be needed,

1. *Decides* to establish an ad hoc technical expert group with terms of reference as contained in the annex to the present decision for the development of guidance materials to support the risk assessment of living modified fish; **FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATIONS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES, WOMEN AND YOUTH.**
 2. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations to submit to the Secretariat information relevant to the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment;
3. *Decides* to extend the Open-ended Online Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management to contribute to the development of guidance materials in support of the risk assessment of living modified fish;

In broader, to establish a partnership and knowledge-sharing recognising traditional knowledge, practices, and innovations of the Indigenous Peoples and local communities and their equal access to the resources mobilization and the capacity building should be as cultural appropriate, to ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities from all seven socio cultural regions.

¹ CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2023/1/4 and CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2024/1/3.



**Twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological
Advice (SBSTTA-26)**
13–18 May, 2024
Nairobi, Kenya

The relevant inputs on the draft recommendation will submit to the Secretariat
We would like to request parties' support.
Thank you, Madam Chair.