



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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THIRD COORDINATION MEETING FOR GOVERNMENTS
AND ORGANIZATIONS IMPLEMENTING OR FUNDING
BIOSAFETY CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES
Lusaka, 26-28 February 2007

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. In its decision BS-1/5, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP) established a Coordination Mechanism to facilitate exchange of information with a view to promoting partnerships and maximizing synergies and complementarities between various capacity-building initiatives. Coordination meetings and workshops are one of elements of the Coordination Mechanism, in addition to the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building in Biosafety, the capacity-building databases, the Biosafety Information Resource Centre and the Biosafety Capacity-Building Network.
2. The first coordination meeting for Governments and organizations implementing or funding biosafety capacity-building activities was held in Montreal on 26-27 January 2005. Participants in the meeting shared brief information about their ongoing capacity-building activities, discussed options for enhancing collaboration and networking in the implementation of the Action Plan and established operational procedures to guide future coordination meetings. They also adopted operational modalities for the Biosafety Capacity-Building Network, contained in the report of the meeting available on the Secretariat's website at: <http://www.biodiv.org/biosafety/issues/meetings.shtml>.
3. The second coordination meeting involved sharing practical experiences and lessons learned in building capacities for the effective implementation of the Protocol, based on detailed case-study presentations of a few ongoing or recently completed capacity-building initiatives. Participants also explored concrete steps for realizing practical synergies and complementarities between different biosafety capacity-building initiatives and adopted an interim guiding framework for promoting synergies and complementarities between biosafety capacity-building initiatives at the country level.
4. The current third meeting will focus its discussions on regional and subregional approaches to capacity-building in biosafety and on options for building national capacities for implementation of the LMO identification requirements under Article 18, paragraph 2, of the Protocol. It will also hear more detailed case-study presentations of the practical experiences, best practices and lessons learned from a representative selection of ongoing or recently completed biosafety capacity-building initiatives, particularly those related to the above agenda items.

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ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The meeting will be opened by a representative of the Government of Zambia at 9 a.m. on 26 February 2007. A representative from the Secretariat will also make opening remarks.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1 Election of officers

6. The meeting will be invited to elect its Chair and Rapporteur from among the participants.

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

7. The meeting will be invited to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/3/1), which was developed by the Steering Committee in consultation with the Zambian Government, the host of the meeting, and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The provisional agenda includes three substantive standing items specified in the “operational procedures and guidelines for the coordination meetings” that were adopted at the first Coordination Meeting, and two additional items for in-depth discussion, namely:

- (a) Regional and subregional approaches to capacity-building in biosafety; and
- (b) Options for building national capacities for implementation of the LMO identification requirements under Article 18, paragraph 2, of the Protocol.

2.3 Organization of work

8. Participants will be invited to consider and adopt the proposed organization of work as contained in annex I below. It is proposed that all the agenda items should be taken up in the plenary. Participants will be invited to raise any other relevant issues related to the building of capacities for the effective implementation of the Protocol under agenda item 5 (Other matters).

ITEM 3. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

3.1. Report of the previous coordination meeting and the progress made in implementing its conclusions and recommendations

9. Under this agenda item, participants will review the status with the follow-up of the conclusions and recommendations of the second Coordination Meeting, as contained in the report of the meeting (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/2/3) ^{1/} and provide, if necessary, suggestions for improvement. This will include feedback on the progress made in the application of the Interim Guiding Framework for Promoting Practical Synergies and Complementarity Between Biosafety Capacity-Building Initiatives at the Country Level and in addressing the identified needs, gaps and constraints to the effective development and implementation of biosafety capacity-building initiatives.

^{1/} Available at: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=BSCMCB-02>

3.2. *Update on ongoing and planned biosafety capacity-building projects/ initiatives: latest developments and emerging opportunities for collaboration*

10. Under this item, participants will be given about 2-3 minutes to highlight the latest developments under their projects/initiatives since the last meeting, including any new opportunities for collaboration with others. Participants wishing to share more detailed information about their ongoing and planned activities will be invited to submit brief written reports to the Secretariat prior to the meeting. The information submitted will be compiled and made available as an information document (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/3/INF/1).

3.3. *Consideration of the needs and priorities of countries and specific requests for capacity-building support*

11. Under this item, participants will be invited to consider the capacity-building needs and priorities and any specific requests for capacity-building assistance submitted by countries since the last meeting. They will also be invited to review once again the needs synthesis report (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/2/INF/7) prepared by the Executive Secretary for the second meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on the basis of the information submitted by countries to the Biosafety Clearing-House. Governments and organizations in a position to provide assistance will be invited to indicate their intentions to respond to the submitted needs and requests.

ITEM 4. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION

4.1. *Detailed case project presentations on emerging practical experiences, best practices and lessons learned in building capacities for the effective implementation of the Protocol*

12. Under this agenda item, participants will hear detailed case-study presentations of a few ongoing or recently completed capacity-building projects/initiatives, focusing on their practical experiences, best practices and lessons learned as well as the main challenges encountered and how they were addressed. They will also highlight their experiences in fostering collaboration/networking with other initiatives. It is expected that other projects would be given an opportunity to make detailed case project presentations at future coordination meetings.

13. The information generated under this item will provide an initial input for the online "Compendium of experiences, best practices and lessons learned in capacity-building for the effective implementation of the Biosafety Protocol", to be maintained through the Biosafety Clearing-House.

4.2. *Regional and subregional approaches to capacity-building in biosafety: issues, practical experiences and future strategies*

14. Subregional and regional initiatives and approaches have in recent years been recognized as very important mechanisms for fostering capacity-building and cooperation in biosafety, especially for countries with very limited resources and capacities. They can facilitate complementarity of efforts, ensure optimum use of the scarce available resources (including human, technical and capital resources) and help realise greater collective impact.

15. At its third meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, in decision BS-III/3 adopted an updated capacity-building Action Plan, contained in the annex to that decision, which highlights "scientific, technical and institutional collaboration at sub regional,

regional and international levels" as one of the key elements that urgently need to be addressed. Sub-section 5.2 of the Action Plan outlines some specific activities/ tasks that could be undertaken in this regard, including establishment of regional websites and database, advisory mechanisms, centres of excellence and training and coordination and harmonization of biosafety frameworks. Paragraph 11 (d) of decision BS-III/3 also highlights the need to promote bilateral exchanges of technical experts between countries as well as bilateral or regional cooperation.

16. While the need for regional and subregional cooperation has been highlighted and some possible actions identified, the challenge still remains with translating the ideals into concrete programs on the ground. Participants at the meeting will be invited to share views and come up with concrete suggestions on how best to respond to this challenge. They will endeavour to identify the issues, potential constraints and policy challenges involved and devise measures to address them. They will also be invited to share their practical experiences and also hear the experiences, best practices and lessons learned from relevant cases studies.

17. The meeting will have before it a discussion paper (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/3/2) prepared by the Executive Secretary reviewing the issues, practical experiences, practices and lessons learned from different initiatives that have applied a regional approach to capacity-building.

4.3. *Options for building national capacities for implementation of the LMO identification and documentation requirements under Article 18, paragraph 2, of the Protocol*

18. At its third meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety adopted a decision (BS-III/10) on the detailed identification requirements for documentation accompanying living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (paragraph 2 (a) of Article 18 of the Protocol). In paragraph 12 of that decision, Parties to the Protocol, other Governments and relevant international and regional organizations were invited to take urgent measures to strengthen capacity-building efforts in developing countries, in order to assist them in the implementation of and benefit from documentation and identification requirements for living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing. In paragraph 10 of the same decision, Parties and other Governments were also encouraged to cooperate in exchanging experiences and building capacities in the use and development of easy to use, rapid, reliable and cost-effective sampling and detection techniques for living modified organisms.

19. Under this item, participants will be invited to exchange views and suggestions on possible strategies and options for strengthening the capacities of developing countries in order to effectively implement the documentation and identification requirements and to develop and apply sampling and detection techniques for living modified organisms.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

20. Under this item, participants will be invited to raise any other important matters related to the building of capacities for the effective implementation of the Protocol that they wish to highlight. Interested participants will also be invited to participate in a field trip to the Zambian GMO Laboratory, which was established under the Project "Assistance to Implement the National Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy and the Cartagena Protocol" funded by the Government of Norway.

21. Participants will also be invited to propose issues or topics they would like to be discussed at the next meeting. As well, Governments and/or organizations wishing to host the next coordination meeting will be invited to make offers. Furthermore, in accordance with the “operational procedures and guidelines for the coordination meetings” that were adopted at the first Coordination Meeting, participants will elect a new Steering Committee to serve for the next two years.

ITEM 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

22. Participants will be invited to formulate and adopt its conclusions and recommendations, which may be used by the Executive Secretary in preparing the necessary documentation for consideration by the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Protocol.

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

23. It is expected that the meeting will be closed at 1 p.m on 28 February 2007,.

Annex I

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

	Plenary
Monday 26 February 2007 9 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 1. Opening of the meeting.
9.30 a.m. – 10 a.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 2. Organizational matters: 2.1. Election of officers; 2.2. Adoption of the agenda; 2.3. Organization of work.
10 am – 10.30 am	Coffee/ Tea Break
10.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 3. Standing items on the agenda: 3.1 Report of the previous Coordination Meeting and the progress made in implementing its conclusions and recommendations; 3.2 Update on ongoing and planned biosafety capacity-building projects/initiatives: latest developments and emerging opportunities for collaboration; 3.3 Consideration of the needs and priorities of countries and specific requests for capacity-building support.
1 pm – 2 pm	Lunch Break
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Agenda item 3 (<i>continued</i>)
3.30 pm – 4 pm	Coffee/ Tea Break
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 4. Issues for in-depth consideration: 4.1. Detailed case project presentations on emerging practical experiences, best practices and lessons learned in building capacities for the effective implementation of the Protocol.
Tuesday 27 February 2007 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 4.2. Regional and subregional approaches to capacity-building in biosafety: issues, practical experiences and future strategies;
10.30 am – 11 am	Coffee/ Tea Break
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	4.3. Options for building national capacities for implementation of the LMO identification and documentation requirements under Article 18, paragraph 2, of the Protocol.
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch Break

	Plenary
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Agenda item 4 (<i>continued</i>)
3.30 pm – 4 pm	Coffee/ Tea Break
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Agenda item 4 (<i>continued</i>)
Wednesday 28 February 2007 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 5. Other matters; 6. Conclusions and recommendations; 7. Closure of the meeting.

Annex II

**DOCUMENTS FOR THE THIRD COORDINATION MEETING FOR GOVERNMENTS AND
ORGANIZATIONS IMPLEMENTING OR FUNDING BIOSAFETY CAPACITY-BUILDING
ACTIVITIES**

A. *Working documents*

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/3/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/3/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/3/2	Regional and subregional approaches to capacity-building and cooperation in biosafety: a review of issues, experiences and lessons learned from relevant case-studies

B. *Information documents*

UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/3/INF/1	Update on ongoing and planned biosafety capacity-building projects/initiatives: a compilation of submissions from Governments and organizations
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/2/INF/7	Report on the needs and priorities of countries for the implementation of the protocol and possible measures for addressing them, including options for enhancing the effectiveness and adequacy of financial assistance
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/2/3	Report of the Second Coordination Meeting for Governments and Organizations Implementing or Funding Biosafety Capacity-Building Activities
