



Convention on Biological Diversity

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EIGHTH COORDINATION MEETING FOR GOVERNMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS IMPLEMENTING OR FUNDING BIOSAFETY CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Prague, 12-14 March 2012

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. In its decision BS-I/5, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP) established a Coordination Mechanism to facilitate exchange of information and collaboration among Parties, other governments and relevant organizations. This was aimed at promoting synergies, complementarities and partnerships between various capacity-building initiatives for the effective implementation of the Protocol. In addition to coordination meetings, the Coordination Mechanism consists of four other elements, namely: the liaison group; biosafety capacity-building databases; information-sharing and networking mechanism and the reporting mechanism.

2. To date, seven coordination meetings for Governments and organizations involved in implementing and/or funding biosafety capacity-building activities have taken place. The first meeting was held in Montreal on 26-27 January 2005; the second in Tromsø, Norway, from 18 to 20 January 2006; the third in Lusaka from 26 to 28 February 2007; the fourth in New Delhi from 11 to 13 February 2008; the fifth in San Jose, Costa Rica, from 9 to 11 March 2009; the sixth in Siem Reap, Cambodia, from 1 to 3 February 2010; and the seventh in Chisinau from 4 to 6 April 2011. The reports of all those coordination meetings are available on the Protocol website at: http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_art22_meetings.shtml.

3. At the last coordination meeting in Chisinau, the participants agreed that the eighth coordination meeting would consider in-depth capacity-building for addressing the following issues:

- (a) Illegal transboundary movements of living modified organisms; and
- (b) Post-release monitoring of living modified organisms.

4. Following the offer by the Government of the Czech Republic to host it, the eighth coordination meeting will be held in Prague from 12 to 14 March. In addition to the standing items on the agenda of

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all coordination meetings, participants will consider the capacity-building needs and strategies with respect to the issues referred to in paragraph 3 above. Participants will also be invited to provide input into the comprehensive review of the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The meeting will be opened by a representative of the Government of the Czech Republic at 9 a.m. on 12 March 2012. A representative from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will also make opening remarks.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1 Election of officers

6. The participants will be invited to elect the Chair and Rapporteur of the meeting.

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

7. The participants will be invited to adopt the agenda of the meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/8/1), prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Steering Committee for the coordination meetings.

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. Participants will also 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. Update on ongoing and planned biosafety capacity-building projects/initiatives

9. Under this item participants will be invited to make short presentations (of approximately five minutes each) on their ongoing or planned biosafety capacity-building activities/projects, in particular the latest developments since the last coordination meeting. Written reports submitted to the Secretariat prior to the meeting will be made available in an information document (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/8/INF/1).

3.2. Progress report on implementation of the recommendations of previous coordination meetings and relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

10. Under this item, participants will consider the report of the seventh coordination meeting (UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/7/3) and review the progress made in implementing the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting.¹

¹ The report of the seventh Coordination Meeting is available at:
<http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/meetings/documents.shtml?eventid=4730>.

ITEM 4. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION**4.1. *Capacity-building for detecting, preventing and managing illegal transboundary movements of living modified organisms***

11. Article 25 of the Protocol requires Parties to adopt appropriate domestic measures aimed at preventing and, if appropriate, penalizing transboundary movements of living modified organisms carried out in contravention of its domestic measures to implement the Protocol (illegal transboundary movements). In the case of an illegal transboundary movement, the affected Party may request the Party of origin to dispose, at its own expense, of the living modified organism in question by repatriation or destruction, as appropriate. Parties are also required to make available to the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) information concerning cases of illegal transboundary movements. To date only two countries have reported cases illegal transboundary movements of LMOs to the BCH. Furthermore, Paragraph 3 of Article 16 of the Protocol requires each Party to take appropriate measures to prevent unintentional transboundary movements of living modified organisms, including such measures as requiring a risk assessment to be carried out prior to the first release of a living modified organism.

12. In the Updated Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol adopted by the Parties in decision BS-III/3 includes, as one of the key elements requiring capacity-building support and action, “measures to address unintentional and/or illegal transboundary movements of living modified organisms”.

13. Under this item, participants will review the capacity-building needs and consider measures to enhance the capacities of Parties in detecting, preventing and managing illegal transboundary movements of living modified organisms.

4.2. *Capacity-building for post-release monitoring of living modified organisms*

14. Article 16 of the Protocol requires Parties to establish and maintain appropriate mechanisms, measures and strategies to regulate, manage and control risks identified in the risk assessment associated with the use, handling and transboundary movement of living modified organisms. It also requires Parties to endeavour to ensure that any living modified organism, whether imported or locally developed, has undergone an appropriate period of observation that is commensurate with its life-cycle or generation time before it is put to its intended use.

15. In their decision BS-IV/11, the Parties to the Protocol established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Risk Assessment and Risk Management under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and an open-ended online forum to develop guidance on specific aspects on risk assessment. In their decision BS-V/12, the Parties extended the mandate of the Group. Accordingly, the third meeting of the AHTEG was held in Mexico City from 30 May to 3 June 2011. Among other items, the AHTEG considered the need for further guidance on new specific topics of risk assessment, selected on the basis of the priorities and needs by the Parties. In this regard, "post-release monitoring and long-term effects of LMOs released into the environment" was one of the topics on which the Group agreed to develop guidance. The Open-ended Online Expert Group has initiated work to develop guidance on monitoring of LMOs. A discussion on the first draft guidance on "Post-release Monitoring and Long-term Effects of LMOs Released into the Environment" was held from 5 to 17 September 2011.

16. The mandate of the AHTEG is limited to the development of technical guidance. In addition to such guidance, however, Parties require further capacity-building support to, among other things, establish enabling legal and institutional frameworks for LMO monitoring, train local experts in monitoring the environmental impacts of LMOs, identify and mobilize relevant expertise, engage relevant stakeholders, set up data sharing systems at national and regional levels and design action plans for intervention/remedial action.

17. Under this item, the participants will review the capacity-building needs of Parties with regard to post-release monitoring of living modified organisms and brainstorm on strategies and measures that might assist Parties to strengthen their human resources and institutional capacities to design, implement and maintain effective post-release monitoring programmes and to act on the outcomes of the monitoring programmes. Available information on the experiences from different countries and regions in this regard will be presented to facilitate the discussion.

4.3. *Comprehensive review of the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol: inputs and suggestions*

18. At their third meeting, which was held in Curitiba, Brazil, in March 2006, the Parties adopted, in decision BS-III/3, an updated Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol. In paragraph 5 of the decision, the Parties agreed to conduct a comprehensive review of the Action Plan every five years based on an independent evaluation of the capacity-building initiatives carried out to implement the Action Plan. At their fifth meeting, held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, the Parties adopted, in decision BS-V/3, the terms of reference for the next comprehensive review of the Action Plan. In paragraph 13 of the decision, Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations were invited to submit information that might facilitate the comprehensive review of the updated Action Plan as well as views and suggestions on possible revisions to the Action Plan.

19. Under this item, the participants will be invited to share their experiences with the implementation of the Action Plan and make suggestions for its possible revision to improve its effectiveness and impact as guiding framework for capacity-building under the Protocol and discuss the frameworks for its implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The report of the independent evaluation of the Action Plan will be presented and feedback sought. Participants will also be invited to make suggestions for the improvement of the Coordination Mechanism for the Action Plan.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

20. Under this item, participants will be invited to review, and revise as appropriate, the operational procedures and guidelines for the coordination meetings. Participants may also be invited elect new members to the Steering Committee subject to revisions that may be made to the operational procedures and guidelines for coordination meetings. Furthermore, the participants will be given opportunity to raise any other matters relevant to capacity-building for the effective implementation of the Protocol.

ITEM 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

21. Participants will be invited to formulate the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting, which may be submitted for consideration by the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Protocol.

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

22. It is expected that the meeting will be closed at 5 p.m. on 14 March 2012.

*Annex I***PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

12 March 2012 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 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
10.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 3. Standing agenda items: 3.1. Updates on ongoing and planned biosafety capacity-building projects/initiatives.
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch Break
2 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 3. Standing agenda items: 3.2. Progress report on implementation of the recommendations of previous coordination meetings and relevant decisions of the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.
3.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
4 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 4. Issues for in-depth consideration: 4.1. Capacity-building for identifying, preventing and managing illegal transboundary movements of living modified organisms.
13 March 2012 9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 4.2. Capacity-building needs and initiatives for post-release monitoring of living modified organisms.
10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 4 (continued):</i> Group discussions on item 4.1
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch Break
2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 4 (continued)</i> Group discussions on item 4.2
4.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
4.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 4 (continued)</i> 4.3. Contribution to the comprehensive review of the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol.

14 March 2012	<i>Agenda item 4 (continued)</i>
9 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Group discussions on item 4.3
10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Coffee/Tea Break
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda item 4 (continued):</i> Consideration of recommendations on items 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Lunch Break
2 p.m. – 5 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 5. Other matters 6. Adoption of meeting report, including conclusions and recommendations 7. Closure of the meeting

Annex II

**DOCUMENTS FOR THE EIGHTH 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/8/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/8/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/8/2	Measures for building capacities for detecting, preventing and managing illegal transboundary movement of living modified organisms
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/8/3	Strengthening national capacities for post-release monitoring of living modified organisms: opportunities and challenges

B. *Information documents*

UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/8/INF/1	Compilation of updates on ongoing and planned biosafety capacity-building projects/initiatives submitted by Governments and organizations
UNEP/CBD/BS/CM-CB/7/3	Report of the Seventh Coordination Meeting for Governments and Organizations Implementing or Funding Biosafety Capacity-Building Activities, held in Chisinau from 4 to 6 April 2011
