



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### WORKSHOP OF THE NETWORK OF LABORATORIES FOR THE DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS

Ispira, Italy, 9-11 June 2015

Item 2 of the provisional agenda\*

#### ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

#### Annotations to the provisional agenda

#### INTRODUCTION

1. In its decision BS-V/9, the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP) established an electronic network of laboratories with a view to bringing together representatives of laboratories involved in the detection of living modified organisms (LMOs) for the sharing of information and experiences that could help facilitate the identification of LMOs. Furthermore, COP-MOP requested the network to carry out online discussion fora and workshops to exchange information and experience on the implementation of relevant standards and methods involved in the detection and identification of LMOs.

2. In decision BS-V/16, the COP-MOP adopted a Strategic Plan for Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol. Under its operational objectives 1.6, 1.8 and 2.3, the Strategic Plan sets out outcomes related to the detection and identification of LMOs.<sup>1</sup>

3. In response to the above decisions, the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms developed a set of Technical Tools and Guidance<sup>2</sup> to assist countries in fulfilling their relevant obligations under the Protocol and achieving the outcomes of the Strategic Plan that are relevant to the detection and identification of LMOs.

4. At its seventh meeting, the COP-MOP reiterated the importance of the detection and identification of LMOs in the implementation of the Protocol by, inter alia, requesting the Network of Laboratories to continue working on issues that are relevant to the detection and identification of LMOs with a view to assisting Parties in fulfilling the requirements under Article 17 and towards achieving the relevant outcomes of the Strategic Plan for implementation of the Protocol.

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\* UNEP/CBD/BS/DI/WS/2015/1/1.

<sup>1</sup> See [http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/issues/cpb\\_stplan\\_txt.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/issues/cpb_stplan_txt.shtml).

<sup>2</sup> Available at [http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb\\_detection/toolsandguidance.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_detection/toolsandguidance.shtml).

5. Furthermore, the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to organize, in cooperation with relevant organizations and subject to the availability of funds, capacity-building activities, such as online and face-to-face training workshops on sampling, detection and identification of LMOs.

6. In the light of these requests, the Secretariat organized a series of online discussions<sup>3</sup> as a starting point for the implementation of the relevant elements of the decision.

7. Further to the online discussions, with financial support from the Government of Japan through the Japan Biodiversity Fund and in collaboration with the Institute for Health and Consumer Protection of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC), the Workshop of the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms will be held in Ispra, Italy, from 9 to 11 June 2015.

8. The specific objectives of the workshop are as follows:

(a) To design the outline for capacity-building workshops on the detection and identification of living modified organisms;

(b) To compile and develop, as appropriate, didactic material for the capacity-building activities referred to in paragraph (a) above;

(c) To continue the development of technical tools and guidance as outlined in the operational objectives 1.6 and 1.8 of the Strategic Plan.

9. The expected outputs of the workshop are an advance draft training material and a strategy for further developing tools and guidance to assist Parties in meeting their requirements related to the detection and identification of LMOs.

10. The workshop will be conducted in English only. Documents for the workshop will be posted at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=BSDIWS-2015-01>. Participants are requested to bring their own copies of the documents, ideally in an electronic form, to minimize the environmental impact of the workshop.

## **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP**

11. The workshop will be opened by a representative of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday 9 June 2015. A representative of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity will also make opening remarks.

## **ITEM 2. ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

12. After self-introductions by the participants, a representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will introduce the workshop objectives and expected outcomes, and present, for adoption by the participants, the provisional agenda for the workshop and the proposed organization of work as contained in the annex to the present document.

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<sup>3</sup> See [http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal\\_detection/discussions.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/onlineconferences/portal_detection/discussions.shtml).

### **ITEM 3. OVERVIEW AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS UNDER THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY**

13. Under this agenda item, participants will be updated on the recent developments under the Protocol which are related to the detection and identification of LMOs, including overviews of the following:

(a) Relevant articles of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: Risk Assessment (Article 15), Risk Management (Article 16), Unintentional Transboundary Movements and Emergency Measures (Article 17), Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification (Article 18), Information Sharing and the Biosafety Clearing-House (Article 20), Illegal Transboundary Movements (Article 25), and Transit and Contained Use (Article 6);

(b) Relevant decisions of the seventh meeting of COP-MOP;

(c) Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020;<sup>4</sup>

(d) Overview of the activities of the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms.

### **ITEM 4. SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

#### **4.1 Current status of the ability of countries to detect and identify living modified organisms appropriately**

14. Under this agenda item, participants will be invited to take part in a round-table discussion to present the current status of the detection and identification of LMOs in their country and highlight any gaps and needs in their capacity to detect and identify LMOs appropriately.

#### **4.2 Designing the outline for capacity-building workshops on the detection and identification of living modified organisms**

15. Several activities are foreseen under this agenda item with a view to designing the outline for training workshops on the detection and identification of LMOs that will be used during the training workshops as requested in decision BS-VII/10.

16. Resource persons will be invited to make presentations focusing on their experience and the challenges in the development of capacity in the field of detection and identification of LMOs as well as an overview of regional considerations that need to be taken into account in the development and delivery of training workshops.

#### **4.3 Compiling and developing, as appropriate, didactic material for the capacity-building activities referred to in 4.1 above**

17. Under this agenda item, break-out groups would further elaborate on the outputs from the discussions under agenda item 4.2 and those from the Network's online discussions with a view to amalgamating them into the proposed elements of the training materials.

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<sup>4</sup> Decision BS-V/16 [http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/issues/cpb\\_stplan\\_txt.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/issues/cpb_stplan_txt.shtml).

18. The content and training material for the capacity-building workshops on detection and identification of LMOs, developed as an output of the workshop, will be used to conduct the training workshops, as requested in decision BS-VII/10 with the view to assisting Parties in achieving operational objective 2.3 of the Strategic Plan. The operational objective aims at having personnel trained and equipped for sampling, detection and identification of LMOs.

**4.4 Development of additional technical tools and guidance as outlined in the operational objectives 1.6 and 1.8 of the Strategic Plan for Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**

19. Under this agenda item, participants will be invited to consider the continuation of the development of technical tools and guidance, as outlined under the relevant operational objectives of the Strategic Plan for implementation of the Protocol during 2011-2020 that are relevant to the detection and identification of LMOs, as follows:

(a) Easy to use and reliable technical tools for the detection of unauthorized LMOs are developed and made available (under operational objective 1.6 of the Strategic Plan for the Protocol);

(b) Guidance developed to assist Parties in detecting and taking measures to respond to unintentional releases of living modified organisms (under operational objective 1.8).

**ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS**

20. Under this item, participants may wish to raise any other matters relevant to the implementation issues that are relevant to the detection and identification of LMOs.

**ITEM 6. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT**

21. Under this item, participants will be invited to consider and adopt the report of the workshop on the basis of the draft report to be prepared by the Secretariat.

**ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP**

22. The workshop is expected to end at 5 p.m. on Thursday, 11 June 2015.

*Annex I*

**PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE WORKSHOP OF THE NETWORK OF  
LABORATORIES FOR THE DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION OF  
LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS**

**Tuesday, 9 June 2015**

9:30 a.m.	Opening of the workshop (agenda item 1)
Morning	Organizational matters (agenda item 2)
	Overview and recent developments under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (agenda item 3)
Afternoon	Substantive issues (agenda item 4)
	Current status of the ability of countries to detect and identify living modified organisms appropriately (agenda item 4.1)

**Wednesday, 10 June 2015**

Morning	Designing the content for capacity-building workshops on the detection and identification of living modified organisms (agenda item 4.2)
Afternoon	Laboratory tour
	Compiling and developing, as appropriate, didactic material for the capacity-building activities referred to in 4.2 above (agenda item 4.3)
Evening	Official dinner

**Thursday, 11 June 2015**

Morning	Development of additional technical tools and guidance as outlined in the operational objectives 1.6 and 1.8 of the Strategic Plan for Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (agenda item 4.4)
Afternoon	Other matters (agenda item 5)
	Adoption of the workshop report (agenda item 6)
5:00 p.m.	Closure of the workshop (agenda item 7)

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