

**CONVENTION ON
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LIAISON GROUP ON CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR
BIOSAFETY
Fourth meeting
Lusaka, 1-2 March 2007

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**INTRODUCTION**

1. The Liaison Group on Capacity-building for Biosafety was established by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol as part the Coordination Mechanism for the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol (decision BS-1/5, annex IV). Its mandate is to provide expert advice to the Executive Secretary on ways and means to enhance the coordination and effective implementation of the Action Plan, including overall strategic approaches and operational measures for enhancing the capacity-building efforts for effective implementation of the Protocol.
2. At its third meeting, which was held from 13 to 17 March 2006 in Curitiba, Brazil, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, in decision BS-III/4, paragraph 1, requested the Liaison Group to develop, for consideration at the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, draft criteria and minimum requirements (including minimum qualifications or experience), for experts to be included in the roster of biosafety experts, in order to assist countries in making their nominations to the roster and in re-assessing the nominations already made.
3. In paragraph 2 of the same decision, the Parties requested the Liaison Group to explore the possibility of establishing a quality-control mechanism for the roster, and if feasible, propose modalities of such mechanism for consideration at the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, taking into account the suggestions made during the internal review of the roster.
4. The fourth meeting of the Liaison Group will therefore discuss and provide advice on the above-mentioned issues as requested by the Parties to the Protocol. It will also consider the issues that were identified in the roster of experts review report, which was prepared by the Executive Secretary for the third meeting of the Parties, and make recommendations of possible measures to address them in order to in order improve the effectiveness and level of use of the roster.
5. The roster of experts was established by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in its decision EM-I/3, to provide advice and other support, as appropriate and upon request, to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition, to conduct risk assessment,

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assessment, make informed decisions, develop national human resources and promote institutional strengthening, associated with the transboundary movements of living modified organisms.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

6. The meeting will be opened by a representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity at 9 a.m. on 1 March 2007.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1 Election of officers

7. The Liaison Group will be invited to elect its Chair and Rapporteur from among the participants in the meeting.

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

8. The meeting will be invited to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/BS/LG-CB/4/1).

2.3 Organization of work

9. The Liaison Group will be invited to decide on its organization of work on the basis of suggestions made by the Executive Secretary, contained in annex I below. Participants will be invited to raise any other relevant issues under agenda item 4 (Other matters).

ITEM 3. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION

3.1 Draft criteria and minimum requirements for experts to be nominated to the roster of experts

10. In the report on the roster of experts on biosafety (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/3/4/Add.2) that was prepared by the Executive Secretary for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on the basis of the submissions made by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, it was mentioned in a number of submissions that one of the factors limiting the effective use of the roster was its limited quality. It was observed that there currently there is insufficient information about the qualifications, experience and competences of the experts list in the roster in order to enable potential users to determine their expertise. It was noted that the categories of expertise listed are too general. It was also observed that there are no clear criteria on who should be considered an expert in biosafety.

11. In light of the above-mentioned observations, the Parties to the Protocol, in decisions BS-III/4, paragraph 1, requested the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building for Biosafety to develop draft criteria and minimum requirements (including minimum qualifications or experience), for experts to be included in the roster, in order to assist countries in making their nominations to the roster and in re-assessing the nominations already made.

12. Under this item, the Liaison Group will be invited to review a synthesis of the views and suggestions on the criteria and minimum requirements for experts to be included in the roster (UNEP/CBD/BS/LG-CB/4/2) prepared by the Executive Secretary on the basis of the submissions made by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and prepare a draft report in this regard for

consideration by the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

13. Currently, the required information for each nominated expert is set out in the nomination form that was adopted at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (decision BS-I/4, annex I, appendix 1). The areas of expert advice and support that may be provided through the roster are set out in the indicative list contained in appendix 2 to the interim guidelines. Therefore as part of the above process, the Liaison Group will also be invited to review and propose revisions, as appropriate, to the nomination form and to the indicative list of expertise for consideration by the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

3.2. Consideration of a possible quality-control mechanism for the roster of experts and the operational modalities of such a mechanism

14. In the report on the roster of biosafety experts that was prepared by the Executive Secretary for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Parties (see para. 10 above), it was observed in a number of submissions that a quality control system is required to ensure that individuals in roster have demonstrated expertise to assist countries in their areas of need. It was recognized that such a system would help to ensure that countries using the roster do not have to bear the burden of sorting through the list to determine which experts truly have the required expertise. Accordingly, the Parties to the Protocol, in decision BS-III/4, paragraph 2, requested the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building for Biosafety to explore the possibility of establishing a quality control mechanism, and if feasible, propose modalities of such mechanism for consideration at the fourth meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, taking into account the suggestions made during the internal review of the roster.

15. Under this item, the Liaison Group will be invited to review a synthesis of the views on a possible quality control mechanism for the roster (UNEP/CBD/BS/LG-CB/4/3) prepared by the Executive Secretary on the basis of the submissions made by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and prepare a proposal for consideration by the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

3.3. Other measures for improving the effectiveness and use of the roster of experts

16. The interim guidelines for the roster of experts (decision BS-I/4, annex I, section K) provides for the periodic review of the roster. In the recent review report that was prepared by the Executive Secretary for the second meeting of the Parties, on the basis of the submissions made by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, a number of factors limiting the effectiveness of the roster were identified.

17. Under this item, the Liaison Group will be invited to consider the report referred to in paragraphs 10 and 14 above (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/3/4/Add.2) and make recommendations for addressing the issues and constraints identified in the review in order improve the effectiveness and level of use of the roster.

ITEM 4. OTHER MATTERS

18. Under this item, the meeting may wish to consider any other matter of relevance raised by participants.

ITEM 5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

19. The Liaison Group will be invited to formulate its general conclusions and recommendations, which may be used by the Executive Secretary in preparing documentation for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its fourth meeting serving as meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

20. It is expected that the meeting of the Liaison Group will be closed at 5 p.m. on Friday, 2 March 2007.

Annex I

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

	<i>Plenary</i>
<i>Thursday</i> <i>1 March 2007</i> 9.00 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 1. Opening of the meeting.
9.30 a.m. to 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.
10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 3. Issues for in-depth consideration: 3.1 Draft criteria and minimum requirements for experts to be nominated to the roster of experts; 3.2 Consideration of a possible quality control mechanism for the Roster of Experts and the operational modalities of such a mechanism. 3.3 Other measures for improving the effectiveness and use of the Roster of Experts.
2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.	Agenda item 3 (<i>continued</i>)
<i>Friday</i> <i>2 March 2007</i> 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Agenda item 3 (<i>continued</i>)
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 4. Other matters 5. Conclusions and recommendations 6. Closure of the meeting

Annex II

**DOCUMENTS FOR THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE LIAISON GROUP ON
CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR BIOSAFETY**

A. Working documents

UNEP/CBD/BS/LG-CB/4/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/LG-CB/4/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/LG-CB/4/2	Synthesis of the views and suggestions on the criteria and minimum requirements for experts to be included in the roster of experts on biosafety
UNEP/CBD/BS/LG-CB/4/3	Synthesis of views on a possible quality-control mechanism for the roster of experts

B. Information documents

UNEP/CBD/BS/LG-CB/4/INF/1	Compilation of the submissions made by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/3/4/Add.2	Report on the roster of biosafety experts (prepared for the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol)
