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### LIAISON GROUP ON CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR BIOSAFETY

Seventh meeting

Siem Reap, Cambodia, 4-5 February 2010

### REPORT OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE LIAISON GROUP ON CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR BIOSAFETY

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The seventh meeting of the Liaison Group on Capacity-Building for Biosafety was held in Siem Reap, Cambodia, on 4-5 February 2010. It was attended by 21 participants from 15 countries and four organizations.
2. The countries represented were: Austria, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Egypt, Germany, India, Liberia, Mexico, Moldova, Namibia, Norway, Serbia, and Viet Nam.
3. The organizations represented were: ECOROPA, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), United Nations Environment Programme-Global Environment Facility (UNEP/GEF) and Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina.
4. The full list of participants is contained in annex II to this report.

#### II. PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING

##### ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The meeting was opened by Mr. Charles Gbedemah on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Mr. Gbedemah welcomed the participants and thanked the Government of Cambodia for hosting the meeting. Mr. Gbedemah noted that the fourth meeting of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop a sound methodological approach to contribute to the second assessment and review of the Protocol and also prepare a draft strategic plan for the Protocol and a draft programme of work on public awareness, education and participation on the basis of submissions by Parties and relevant organizations. The drafts would be considered at the fifth meeting of the Parties. He expressed hope that the Liaison Group would critically review and provide concrete comments on the drafts prepared by the Secretariat.

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## ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

6. After the opening session, the participants elected Mr. Jan Husby (Norway) to serve as Chair and Ms. Martha Kandawa-Schulz (Namibia) as Rapporteur.

7. The meeting then adopted following the agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/BS/LG-CB/7/1) which was proposed by the Executive Secretary:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
  - 2.1. Election of officers;
  - 2.2. Adoption of the agenda;
  - 2.3. Organization of work.
3. Issues for in-depth consideration:
  - 3.1 Review of:
    - (a) The draft Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; and
    - (b) The draft proposed framework for the second assessment and review of the Protocol;
  - 3.2 Consideration of the need to improve or retire some of the capacity-building guidance, tools and mechanisms adopted in previous decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;
  - 3.3 Review of the draft programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms.
4. Other matters.
5. Conclusions and recommendations.
6. Closure of the meeting.

8. The participants also adopted organization of work for the meeting, as contained in annex I to this report, based on the suggestions made by the Executive Secretary in the annotations (UNEP/CBD/BS/LG-CB/7/1/Add.1). Due to time constraints, the participants agreed to focus on items 3.1 and 3.3 and defer agenda item 3.2 to the next meeting.

## ITEM 3. ISSUES FOR IN-DEPTH CONSIDERATION

### ***3.1. Review of: (a) the draft Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; and (b) the draft proposed framework for the second assessment and review of the Protocol***

9. Under agenda item 3.1 (a), participants reviewed the draft Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety which was prepared by the Executive Secretary on the basis of the submissions from Parties and elements derived from the report of the evaluation of the Protocol, the first national reports and decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

10. After a brief general discussion in the plenary on the first day, three discussion groups were established to consider and propose specific changes to the operational objectives, outcomes and indicators under the five strategic objectives. The proposals from the three groups were then presented and discussed in the plenary session on the second day. The proposed changes were incorporated into the revised draft Strategic Plan for the Protocol contained in the advance pre-session document for the fifth meeting of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP-MOP/5/16).

11. Under sub-item 3.1 (b), participants reviewed the draft proposed framework for the second assessment and review of the Protocol. They noted that the proposed framework would impose tight timelines on Parties and on the Secretariat or another entity that might be charged with compiling and analysing relevant evaluation data from the second national reports for the second assessment and review of the Protocol by the Parties at their sixth meeting, in 2012. The participants also reviewed the indicators that might be utilized as the basis for the evaluation of the assessment and made recommendations for their improvement. The proposed changes were incorporated in the advance pre-session document for the fifth meeting of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP-MOP/5/15).

**3.3. *Review of the draft programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms***

12. Under agenda item 3.3, the participants reviewed draft programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms that was prepared by the Secretariat. Three discussion groups were established to consider and propose changes to the operational objectives, expected outcomes, suggested activities, timelines and the responsible actors under the three programme elements on public awareness and education, public access to information and public participation, respectively. The cross-cutting programme element on "capacity-building for the promotion of public awareness, education and participation" was taken up in the plenary.

13. It was recommended that the programme of work should include indicators which would be used to monitor progress with its implementation. The proposals from the three groups were then presented and discussed in the plenary session on the second day. The proposed changes were directly incorporated into the advance pre-session document for the fifth meeting of the Parties (UNEP/CBD/COP-MOP/5/13).

**ITEM 4. OTHER MATTERS**

14. There were no other matters raised.

**ITEM 5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

15. The Liaison Group agreed on following conclusions and recommendations:

*Draft Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*

(a) The Executive Secretary was invited to consider the specific proposed changes to the draft operational objectives, outcomes and indicators when preparing the final draft strategic plan for consideration by the fifth meeting of the Parties.

*Proposed framework for the second assessment and review of the Protocol*

(b) In view of the tight timelines that the proposed framework will impose on Parties in terms of submission of their second national reports and on the Secretariat or another entity that might be charged with compiling and analysing relevant evaluation data from those reports for the second

assessment and review of the Protocol by the Parties at their sixth meeting, in 2012, it was recommended that the Bureau takes into account the proposed timing when scheduling the dates for the sixth meeting of the Parties.

*Review of the draft programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms*

(c) The Executive Secretary was invited to consider incorporating the specific changes proposed by the Liaison Group into the final draft programme of work on public awareness, education and participation to be submitted for consideration by the fifth meeting of the Parties.

(d) It was recommended that the Executive Secretary ensures coherence and consistency between the aspects on public awareness, education and participation in the draft Strategic Plan of the Protocol and the content in the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms.

## **ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

16. At the last session of the meeting, the participants reviewed and adopted the draft report of the meeting covering the proceedings of the first day and part of the last day. The Secretariat was requested to incorporate the proceedings of the last day and send the draft report to all participants for comments before posting it on the Protocol website.

17. The meeting was closed on Friday, 5 February 2010 at 5.15 p.m.

*Annex I*

**ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

	<i>Plenary</i>
<i>Thursday</i> 4 February 2010 9 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 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 3. Issues for in-depth consideration: 3.1 Review of the: (a) Draft Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; (b) Draft framework for the second assessment and review of the Protocol.
2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.	Agenda item 3.1 ( <i>continued</i> )
<i>Friday</i> 5 February 2010 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 3.2 Consideration of the need to improve or retire some of the capacity-building guidance, tools and mechanisms adopted in previous decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. 3.3 Review of the draft programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms.
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 4. Other matters 5. Conclusions and recommendations 6. Closure of the meeting

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