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WEST ASIA AND NORTH AFRICA
SUBREGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP
ON MAINSTREAMING BIOSAFETY INTO
NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS
AND RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 16-20 November 2014

Item 2 of the provisional agenda*

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. In its decision BS-V/16, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP) adopted a Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety covering the period 2011 to 2020. In paragraph 2 of that decision, Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations were invited to: (a) review and align, as appropriate, their national action plans and programmes relevant to the implementation of the Protocol, including their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), with the Strategic Plan; and (b) allocate adequate human and financial resources necessary to expedite the implementation of the Strategic Plan. The COP-MOP in decision BS-V/11 also adopted the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress and encouraged Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to ratify or accede to it as soon as possible and to embark on its implementation.

2. The second assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol, which was considered at the sixth meeting of the Parties, held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012, noted that, while progress had been made in the implementation of some of the core elements of the Protocol a number of barriers have impeded its full implementation (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/17/Add.1). These include lack of human, financial and technical resources; a continuing lack of awareness of biosafety issues among the public and policymakers; and the limited integration of biosafety considerations into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies, plans and programmes, including NBSAPs, national development plans and development cooperation policies and programmes.

3. The goal of this workshop is to enhance the capacity of Parties in the West Asian and North African subregion to advance the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and its Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress through effective integration of biosafety into NBSAPs and national development plans in line with the Strategic Plan for the Protocol and the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in particular Targets 1-4, 7, 9, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19 and 20. It also aims to increase the capacity of Parties to identify and mobilize sufficient and predictable resources for the implementation of the Protocol and facilitate public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs).

* UNEP/CBD/BS/RW-MB-WANA/1/1.

4. The workshop will provide an opportunity for the participants to share experiences and identify strategies to improve the integration of biosafety into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national development plans and mobilize additional resources for the implementation of Strategic Plan for the Protocol. They will also review the progress with the implementation of the Protocol and the status of ratification of Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress in the subregion. Furthermore, the workshop will provide a platform to the participants to share experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation and discuss ways and means of fostering regional cooperation.

5. Specifically with regard to the learning objectives, it is expected that at the end of workshop the participants would be able to:

(a) Describe the status of the implementation of the Protocol in the West Asian and North African subregion and the extent to which biosafety is integrated in the NBSAPs and national development planning processes;

(b) Identify tools, strategies and opportunities for improving the integration of biosafety into NBSAPs and national development plans;

(c) Define strategies for the mobilization of additional resources to support the implementation of the Protocol and know how to incorporate them into the national resource mobilization plans being developed in the context of the NBSAP revision process, taking into account the Strategy for Resource Mobilization in support of the achievement of the objectives of the Convention;

(d) Identify good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning LMOs and describe how the programme of work contributes to the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 1;

(e) Describe the objective and core requirements of the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress, identify measures that could be taken at the national level to satisfy those requirements, and assess potential challenges and opportunities for the ratification and implementation of the Supplementary Protocol.

6. The workshop is being organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity together with the Government of the United Arab Emirates, through its Ministry of Environment and Water, and the United Nations Environment Programme's Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP-ROWA). It is funded by the Government of Japan through the Japan Biodiversity Fund and hosted by the Government of the United Arab Emirates. At least 30 participants, including the national focal points for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety or competent national authorities and the NBSAP coordinators or CBD national focal points of Parties in the subregion,¹ as well as representatives of regional organizations and other partners, are expected to attend. Countries in the subregion that are not yet Parties to the Cartagena Protocol are also invited to send NBSAP coordinators or other relevant officials to attend the workshop at their own expense.

7. The workshop will be conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation into Arabic. Documents for the workshop will be made available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=BSRWMB-WANA-01>.

¹ The Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in the subregion are: Afghanistan; Algeria; Bahrain; Egypt; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Iraq; Jordan; Lebanon; Libya; Mauritania; Morocco; Oman; Qatar; Saudi Arabia; Sudan; Syrian Arab Republic; Tunisia; Turkey; United Arab Emirates; and Yemen.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE WORKSHOP

8. The workshop will be opened by a representative of the Government of the United Arab Emirates at 9 a.m. on Sunday, 16 November 2014. Representatives of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNEP-ROWA will also make opening remarks.

ITEM 2. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

9. Under this item, the Secretariat will present the objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop, and introduce the provisional agenda and the organization of work as contained in the annex to the present document. Participants will thereafter be invited to introduce themselves and indicate their expectations from the workshop.

ITEM 3. INTRODUCTION TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY AND THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION IN WEST ASIA AND NORTH AFRICA

10. Under this agenda item, the participants will review key elements of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety 2011-2020 and its linkages with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. They will also be invited to share information on the status of the implementation of the Protocol in their respective countries, including how national measures for the implementation of the Protocol are being aligned with the Strategic Plan for the Protocol and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as well as the challenges encountered.² An overview of the status of implementation of the Protocol in the West Asian and North African subregion, based on the information provided by Parties in their second national reports, will be presented.

ITEM 4. INTEGRATION OF BIOSAFETY INTO NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

11. Under this item, participants will be introduced to the rationale, tools, good practices and potential opportunities and challenges of integrating biosafety into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national development plans. This will include discussions on the meaning and importance of integration of biosafety, key areas/sectors into which biosafety issues could or should be integrated, and the possible ways and means through which integration could be achieved (including entry points, tools, methods and institutional strategies) and the role of various actors.

12. After the presentation, participants will be divided into groups and will: (a) exchange information on how biosafety is integrated in their NBSAPs and national development planning processes; (b) share practical experiences, good practices and lessons learned in the integration process; and (c) identify capacity-building needs and opportunities for integration and discuss possible ways and means for improvement. They will also be invited to identify possible elements of a road map for achieving integrated implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level within the context of the revised NBSAPs and the national plans for sustainable development.

² Prior to the workshop, participants will be requested to submit to the Secretariat brief reports on the status of implementation of the Protocol in their countries, the opportunities and challenges encountered and the measures taken to align the national biosafety measures with the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2011-2020) and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

ITEM 5. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR ADVANCING NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

13. Under this item, participants will be introduced to key resource mobilization concepts, strategies and initiatives in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including recent developments with regard to the Strategy for Resource Mobilization in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention, which was adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision IX/11 and decisions on resource mobilization taken by the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. They will also be introduced to the key steps involved in the development of a national resource mobilization strategy.

14. After the presentation, participants will engage in group discussions to review the status of domestic and official development assistance (ODA) funding for biosafety,³ identify possible strategies and mechanisms for mobilizing additional resources to support national implementation of the Protocol and discuss how these could be incorporated into the national resource mobilization plans being developed in the context of the NBSAP revision/update process.

ITEM 6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PUBLIC AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION CONCERNING LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS

15. Under this item, participants will be introduced to key concepts, tools and methods relevant to public awareness, education, access to information, and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs. They will then be invited to take part in a panel discussion to share experiences, good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs and discuss how the implementation of the programme of work is contributing to the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 1.

16. Participants will engage in a group exercise to identify the key elements of a national biosafety communication plan or outreach strategy and, thereafter, they will be requested to develop an individual draft biosafety communication plan for their countries and seek feedback from other workshop participants.

17. Participants will also be introduced to the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and its GMO Amendment as well as the relevant tools, good practices and lessons learned in its implementation.

18. Finally, the participants will discuss the importance of public participation in decision-making regarding LMOs, review the basic principles and conditions for achieving effective participation, analyse the different levels/degrees of public participation, and identify key points to consider in selecting appropriate public participation methods and techniques for a given decision-making process. They will also engage in another exercise to identify key elements of, and steps involved in developing, a public participation plan.

ITEM 7. RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAGOYA – KUALA LUMPUR SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL ON LIABILITY AND REDRESS

19. Under this item, participants will be introduced to the objective and core requirements of the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on

³ Prior to the workshop, participants will be invited to undertake a stocktaking of domestic financing mechanisms and sources of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) funding for biosafety over the last 5 to 10 years and the respective amount of resources mobilised for biosafety.

Biosafety. They will also be briefed on the status of ratification of the Supplementary Protocol and the possible advantages of ratification or accession to the Supplementary Protocol.

20. Following the presentations, participants will take part in group discussions to identify and describe measures that may need to be taken at the national level to satisfy the requirements of the Supplementary Protocol and identify potential challenges and opportunities for the ratification or accession to, and implementation of, the Supplementary Protocol.

ITEM 8. THE WAY FORWARD

21. Under this item, participants will be invited to discuss the way forward with regard to improving and advancing national biosafety measures for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and its Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress in the West Asian and North African subregion in line with the Strategic Plan for the Protocol and the relevant Aichi targets. This will include identification of opportunities and means to foster regional cooperation and ongoing sharing of information and experiences regarding integration of biosafety and mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol.

ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE WORKSHOP

22. During the last session, participants will review what was covered during the week against the stated objectives and expected outcomes of the workshop and will complete a workshop evaluation form. The workshop is expected to end on Thursday, 20 November 2014, at 5.00 p.m.

Annex

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

<i>DATE AND TIME</i>	<i>SESSION/ACTIVITY</i>
Sunday, 16 November 2014	
9 a.m. – 9.45 a.m.	<p>Item 1. Opening of the workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome remarks by a representative of the Ministry of Environment and Water (the host institution) • Opening remarks by a representative of UNEP • Opening remarks by a representative of the CBD Secretariat • Opening of the workshop by the Minister of the Environment and Water of the United Arab Emirates • Group photo
9.45 a.m. – 10.15 a.m.	<p>Item 2. Workshop objectives and expected outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ice breaker • Workshop objectives and expected outcomes • Participants' expectations
10.15 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	COFFEE/TEA BREAK
10.30 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.	<p>Item 3. Introduction to the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and their Implementation in West Asia and North Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: Inter-linkages between the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2011-2020) and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets <p>Questions and answers</p>
11.15 a.m. – 12 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group discussion: Alignment of national measures for the implementation of the Protocol with the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets <p>Questions and answers</p>
12 p.m. – 1 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group reports and plenary discussions
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
2 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: Status of implementation of the Cartagena Protocol in the West Asian and North African subregion based on the synthesis of the second national reports <p>Questions and answers</p>
2.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel discussion: Experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol at the national level

<i>DATE AND TIME</i>	<i>SESSION/ACTIVITY</i>
3.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.	COFFEE/TEA BREAK
4 p.m. – 5 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing of country experiences, good practices and lessons learned in implementation of the Protocol in breakout groups
5 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plenary: Presentation of the main points from the breakout groups
Monday, 17 November 2014	
9 a.m. – 9.15 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap of the previous day's work
9.15 a.m. – 9.45 a.m.	<p>Item 4. Integration of biosafety into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national development plans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation: The rationale, good practices and tools for the integration of biosafety into national policies, plans and programmes, particularly NBSAPs <p>Questions and answers</p>
9.45 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel discussion: Country experiences and lessons learned in integrating biosafety into NBSAPs and national development plans
10.45 a.m. – 11 a.m.	COFFEE/TEA BREAK
11 a.m. – 12 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus group discussions: Practical steps and key points to consider in integrating biosafety into NBSAPs
12 a.m. – 1 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the focus group discussion reports and discussion of action points
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
2 p.m. – 2.45 p.m.	<p>Item 5. Resource mobilization for advancing national implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation – Resource mobilization in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols: Recent developments including review of the CBD Strategy for Resource Mobilization and decisions by the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol <p>Questions and answers</p>
2.45 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brainstorming session: Ways and means of mobilizing new and additional resources to support national implementation of the Protocol
3.15 p.m. – 3.30p.m.	COFFEE/TEA BREAK
3.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus group discussions: Key elements on a national strategy for mobilization of resources to support national implementation of the Protocol
4.30 p.m. – 5 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the focus group reports and discussion of the follow-up actions

<i>DATE AND TIME</i>	<i>SESSION/ACTIVITY</i>
Tuesday, 18 November 2014	
8.45 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap of the previous day's work
9 a.m. – 9.45 a.m.	<p>Item 6. Implementation of the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning living modified organisms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation: Overview of the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning LMOs and the measures taken by the Secretariat to facilitate its implementation <p>Questions and answers</p>
9.45 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brainstorming session: Ways and means of increasing the visibility and political profile of the Cartagena Protocol at the national and regional levels <p>Questions and answers</p>
10.30 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.	COFFEE/TEA BREAK
10.45 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation: Relevant experiences, good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters and its GMO Amendment <p>Questions and answers</p>
11.15 a.m. – 12.15 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panel discussion: National experiences, good practices and lessons learned in the promotion and facilitation of public awareness and education concerning LMOs in the West Asian and North African subregion as part of the national efforts towards the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 1
12.15 p.m. – 1.00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation: Core elements of national regimes on public access to information: Outcomes of the online forum held through the BCH in June 2012 Video: public access to information <p>Questions and answers</p>
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
2 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field trip
Wednesday, 19 November 2014	
8.45 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap of the previous day's work
9 a.m. – 9.45 a.m.	<p>Item 6 (Cont'd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group discussions: Public access to biosafety information in the WANA subregion: Experience, good practices and lessons learned <p>Questions and answers</p>
10.30 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.	COFFEE/TEA BREAK

<i>DATE AND TIME</i>	<i>SESSION/ACTIVITY</i>
10.45 a.m. – 11.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: Public participation in biosafety and environmental decision-making: Key concepts, emerging good practices and mechanisms incorporated in the national biosafety frameworks of countries in West Asia and North Africa <p>Questions and answers</p>
11.30 a.m. – 12.00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports from the focus-group discussions
12.00 p.m. – 1 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary discussions: Strategies and mechanisms to promote regional and subregional cooperation on public awareness, education and participation concerning LMOs
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus group discussions on elements of, and key issues to consider in developing a public participation plan for a decision-making process regarding an LMO
3 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the focus-group discussion reports
3.30 p.m. – 4 p.m.	COFFEE/TEA BREAK
4 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: Fostering regional cooperation on public awareness, education and participation concerning LMOs – Synergies and ongoing collaboration between the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Aarhus Convention
4.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary discussions: Strategies and mechanisms to promote regional and subregional cooperation on public awareness, education and participation concerning LMOs
Thursday, 20 November 2014	
8.45 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.	Recap of the previous day's work
9 a.m. – 9.45 a.m.	<p>Item 7. Ratification and implementation of the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: Overview of the objective and core provisions of the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress <p>Questions and answers</p>
9.45 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group exercise – consideration of hypothetical cases on liability and redress <p>Presentation of the group exercise reports</p>
10.45 a.m. – 11 a.m.	COFFEE/TEA BREAK
11 a.m. – 11.45 a.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round-table discussions: National experiences with the development and implementation of liability and redress laws, in particular liability rules addressing environmental damage
11.45 a.m. – 12.15 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation: The significance and potential advantages of becoming a Party to the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol
12.15 p.m. – 1.00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plenary discussion: Measures and capacities needed at the national level to facilitate the ratification and implementation of the Supplementary Protocol
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	LUNCH BREAK

<i>DATE AND TIME</i>	<i>SESSION/ACTIVITY</i>
2 p.m. – 2.45 p.m.	<p>Items 8. The way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group discussions: Strategic steps to foster integrated implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level through the revised NBSAPs and the national resource mobilisation plans to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
2.45 p.m. – 3.15 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group discussion reports
3.15 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	COFFEE/TEA BREAK
3.30 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plenary discussion: Ways and means to foster regional cooperation and ongoing sharing of information and experiences regarding integration of biosafety and mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol
4.00 p.m. – 4.15 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of the workshop evaluation form
4.15 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	<p>Items 9. Closure of the workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing remarks by a representative of the CBD Secretariat <p>Closure of the workshop by the representative of the Government of the United Arab Emirates</p>