



## CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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GROUP ON BIOSAFETY  
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### PREAMBLE

#### Option 1:

The Parties to this Protocol,

Being Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, hereinafter referred to as "the Convention",

Recalling Article 19, paragraphs 3 and 4, and Articles 8(g) and 17 of the Convention,

Recalling also decision II/5 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to develop a protocol on biosafety, specifically focusing on transboundary movement of any living modified organism resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effect on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, setting out for consideration, in particular, appropriate procedure for advance informed agreement,

Recognizing that modern biotechnology has great potential for human well-being if developed and used with adequate safety measures for the environment and human health,

Taking into account the limited capabilities of many countries, particularly developing countries, to cope with the nature and scale of known and potential risks associated with living modified organisms (LMOs),

Have agreed as follows:

#### Option 2:

Parties to this Protocol,

Being Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, hereinafter referred to as "the Convention",

Recalling Article 19, paragraphs 3 and 4, and Articles 8(g) and 17 of the Convention, and recognising the linkages between them,

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Recalling also decision II/5 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to develop a protocol on biosafety, specifically focusing on transboundary movement of any living modified organism resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effect on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, setting out for consideration, in particular, appropriate procedure for advance informed agreement,

Reaffirming decision III/20 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and, in particular its support for a two-track approach through which the promotion of the application of the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology can contribute to and complement the implementation of this Protocol,

Noting the potential contribution of the United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods to the implementation of the Protocol,

Recalling the support of the international community for Agenda 21 adopted by the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and, in particular Chapter 16, which provides for the "Environmentally Sound Management of Biotechnology", and which further seeks to ensure safety in biotechnology development, application, exchange and transfer through international agreement,

Recognizing that, while properly addressing the risks from living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology (LMOs) the Protocol should avoid causing unnecessary delays, including through the creation of unwarranted administrative requirements for the transboundary transfer of LMOs for contained use,

Aware of the rapid expansion of modern biotechnology and the growing public concern over its potential adverse effects on human or animal health, biological diversity, the environment, and social and economic welfare,

Concerned that significant gaps in scientific knowledge remain, specifically with regard to the interaction between the environment and living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology,

Noting that, in accordance with the precautionary principle, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize risk where such a risk is posed by living modified organisms resulting from biotechnology,

Recognizing also that, although considerable knowledge has accumulated, significant gaps in knowledge have been identified, specifically in the field of interaction between living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology and the environment, taking into account the relatively short period of experience with releases of such organisms, the relatively small number of species and traits used, and the lack of experience in the range of environments, specifically those in centres of origin and genetic diversity,

Determined to avoid and minimize the risks associated with the transfer, handling and use of LMOs through appropriate risk assessment and management techniques,

Recognizing the need to establish a minimum condition of safety and a procedure for the assessment and management of the potential risks arising from the development, use, release and transfer of LMOs and products thereof,

Recognizing that the socio economic impacts of the introduction of LMOs and products thereof should be considered in risk assessment and management, taking

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particularly into account the needs and concerns of developing countries,

Affirming the need to provide adequate compensation for in the event of any damage caused by or arising from the handling, transfer and use of LMOs,

Conscious of the need to promote and encourage public awareness of the safe use, handling and transfer of LMOs through the development and implementation of educational and public awareness programmes, and through public participation in risk assessment and management procedures.

Taking into account the limited capabilities of many countries, particularly developing countries, to cope with the nature and scale of known and potential risks associated with living modified organisms,

Acknowledging the need for appropriate policies and measures to develop and strengthen human resources and institutional capacities in the safe handling, transfer and use of LMOs, taking due account of the needs of developing countries,

Have agreed as follows:

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