

**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**Distr.
GENERALUNEP/CBD/BSWG/5/1/Add.1
29 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

OPEN-ENDED AD HOC WORKING
GROUP ON BIOSAFETY
Fifth meeting
Montreal, 17-28 August 1998

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. The Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety was established by decision II/5 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/2/19). It has met four times, in Aarhus, Denmark, from 22 to 26 July 1996, and in Montreal from 12 to 16 May 1997, from 13 to 17 October 1997 and from 5 to 13 February 1998. The report of the fourth meeting is contained in document UNEP/CBD/BSWG/4/4. The fifth meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety will be held in Montreal from 17 to 28 August 1998.

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

2. The meeting will take place at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) building, in Montreal. The meeting will be opened at 10 a.m. on Monday, 17 August 1998, by the Chairman of the Working Group, Mr. Veit Koester (Denmark).

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

3. The provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/BSWG/5/1) will be before the Working Group for its consideration and adoption.

Item 3. Confirmation and constitution of the Bureau

4. In paragraph 2 of its decision IV/3, the conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting decided, inter alia:

Na.98-2595 150798

- "(a) That the bureau of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety shall be composed of representatives of Argentina, Bahamas, Denmark, Ethiopia, Hungary, India, Mauritania, New Zealand, Russian Federation and Sri Lanka;
- (b) That the members of the bureau shall remain in office, under the chairmanship of Mr. Veit Koester (Denmark) until the adoption of the Protocol on Biosafety."

5. The Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group may wish to confirm and constitute the Bureau on the basis of the nominations made at the fourth meeting of the Conference of Parties and those received thereafter by the Secretariat. These nominations are:

Mr. Veit Koester (Denmark) (Chairman)
Mr. Behren Gebre Egziabher Tewolde (Ethiopia)
Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould el Gaouth (Mauritania)
Mr. Diego Malpede (Argentina)
H.E. Mrs. Lynn Holowesko (Bahamas)
Dr. Ervin Balazs (Hungary)
Dr. Alexander Golikov (Russian Federation)
Ms. A.K. Ahuja (India)
Mr. D.B. Bathiya Sumithraarachchi (Sri Lanka)
Mr. Darryl Dunn (New Zealand)

Item 4. Organization of work

6. The Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group may wish to agree on the organization of its work with a view to fulfilling the mandate entrusted to it within the time-frame agreed upon by the Conference of the Parties.

7. At its fourth meeting, the Working Group agreed that the organizational arrangements established for the fourth meeting would be maintained at its fifth meeting. There would hence be a Sub-Working Group I, Sub-Working Group II, Contact Group 1, and Contact Group 2, with the same core representatives as at the fourth meeting. The same Co-Chairs for the four groups would (to the extent possible) also remain in office. The representatives in the groups would have the same mandate to fully negotiate and provide text to the plenary. Contact Group 1 would be working mainly with Sub-Working Group I but also with Sub-Working Group II (paragraph 32 of the report of fourth meeting).

Item 5. Elaboration of a Protocol on Biosafety in accordance with decision II/5 of the Conference of the Parties

8. At its third and fourth meetings, the Working Group established a mechanism to enable Governments to develop consolidated text upon which future negotiations would be based. The consolidated text of draft articles that emerged from that meeting is contained in annex I to the Group's report and is before this meeting in the form of a document entitled "Revised consolidated text of the draft articles" (UNEP/CBD/BSWG/5/Inf.1).

9. It is envisaged that, at the fifth meeting, Sub-Working Group I will continue with the mandate on Articles 3-14 and Sub-Working Group II Articles 14-22 and in addition Articles 1, 1 bis and 15-27. Contact Group 1 will continue with the mandate on Use of Terms (Article 2) and Annexes and Contact Group 2 on Institutional/Legal Matters and Final Clauses (Preamble and Articles 28-43).

10. In pursuance of the decisions taken by the Ad Hoc Working Group at its fourth meeting, the Secretariat has prepared the following documents to assist the Group in its deliberations:

(a) Compilation of new government submissions of draft text (UNEP/CBD/BSWG/5/2);

(b) Background information on "Products thereof" (UNEP/CBD/BSWG/5/3).

Item 6. Dates and venues of meetings of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety in 1998/99

11. In adopting the terms of reference of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group at its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties agreed that the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group should endeavour to complete its work in 1998.

12. In paragraph 3 of its decision IV/3, the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting decided, inter alia:

["T]hat the final meeting of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety and an extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties be held in February 1999. These meetings shall be held at the seat of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, Canada, unless an offer to host these meetings is received by the Executive Secretary no later than 1 August 1998."

13. To facilitate the preparation of future meetings, the Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group may wish to confirm the dates, duration and venue of its sixth meeting (including the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties) in 1999.

Item 7. Adoption of the report

14. The Open-ended Ad Hoc Working Group on Biosafety will consider and adopt its report.

Item 8. Closure of the meeting

15. The meeting will be closed on Friday, 28 August 1998.

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE
OPEN-ENDED AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON BIOSAFETY

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
UNEP/CBD/BSWG/5/1	PROVISIONAL AGENDA
UNEP/CBD/BSWG/5/1/Add.1	ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA
UNEP/CBD/BSWG/5/2	COMPILATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT SUBMISSIONS OF DRAFT TEXT (STRUCTURED BY ARTICLE)
UNEP/CBD/BSWG/5/3	BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON "PRODUCTS THEREOF"
UNEP/CBD/BSWG/5/Inf.1	REVISED CONSOLIDATED TEXT OF THE DRAFT ARTICLES
UNEP/CBD/BSWG/5/Inf.2	GOVERNMENT SUBMISSIONS
