



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

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ENGLISH

OPEN-ENDED AD HOC WORKING
GROUP ON BIOSAFETY
Sixth meeting
Cartagena, 14-19 February 1999

Note from the Secretariat

REPORT: MEETING OF THE EXTENDED BUREAU OF THE OPEN ENDED AD HOC WORKING
GROUP ON BIOSAFETY Montreal 21- 22 October 1998

1. The Extended Bureau comprised of the Bureau and the Co-Chairs of the Sub Working Groups and the Contact Groups, observers from the host country for the 6th meeting (Colombia) and a representative from the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties (Brazil). The following representatives attended the meetings:

Mr. Veit Koester (Denmark) (Chairman), Mr. Diego Malpede (Argentina), Ms. Jimena Nieto (Colombia), Prof. Ervin Balázs (Hungary), H.E. Mrs. Lynn P. Holowesko (Bahamas), Dr. Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziagher (Ethiopia), Mr. R.H. Khwaja (India) , Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El Gaouth (Mauritania), Dr. Alexander Golikov (Russian Federation), Mr. Darryl Dunn (New Zealand), Dr. Eric Schoonejans (France), Mr. John Herity (Canada), Mrs. Sandra Wint (Jamaica), Mr. P.J. Van der Meer (Netherlands), Dr. Gert Willemse (South Africa), Dr. Katharina Kummer (Switzerland), H.E. Dr. John W. Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda) & Ms. Maria Felicina Ortigao de Sampaio (Brazil).

- 1.1 The meeting was convened in order to facilitate the organisation of work for both the 6th Meeting of the Working group and the work related to the following Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Cartagena ,Colombia, in February 1999.
- 1.2 The meeting began with a report from the secretariat on preparations for BSWG6, specifically on a site visit to Colombia.
- 1.3 The co-chairs of CG1 and SWG1 reported on informal discussions they had had with representatives of NGOs and industry in which those representatives provided the co-chairs with back ground information and views on issues discussed in CG1 and SWG1.

Structure and organization of the meetings

2. In considering the heavy workload on delegations in finalising the Draft protocol, the Extended Bureau reached several conclusions regarding the provisional structure of the meeting.
 - 2.1 A proposal to extend the meeting to include an opportunity for regional and inter-regional consultations in order to advance the negotiations, was discussed. The Bureau agreed that the meeting could be officially extended to include the Saturday and Sunday, 13 and 14 of February, and if requested, Friday 12 February. This time should be used for scheduled meetings aimed at advancing the negotiations of BSWG 6.
 - 2.2 It was agreed that the Working group would commence on Sunday afternoon (12 February) with a Plenary followed by Sub-Working groups, with an opportunity to be provided to the Group of G77 and China for a meeting with interpretation. The provisional structure of the Working group meeting is attached.
 - 2.3 The secretariat agreed to facilitate such inter-regional consultations by acting as a Clearing House for requests for inter-regional consultations and to provide a senior staff member for each region during the course of the consultations. No interpretation or other assistance, other than meeting rooms, will be made available for the consultations.

Facilitation of the negotiations

3. In considering the results from BSWG5, the Bureau agreed that many of the negotiating points appeared to be common to clusters of Articles, and also that many Articles could and should be considered as clusters.
 - 3.1 The Bureau felt that an appropriate approach to facilitating the work at the meeting would be the identification of "clusters of Articles". The Bureau favoured the idea that "clusters of Articles" could also be the basis of discussions in the regional and inter-regional consultations. The Bureau recommended the development of a note from the Chair on "clusters", to be submitted to the meeting.
 - 3.2 In addition, the Bureau agreed that the work should be organised so that Articles are not addressed in both working groups and recommended strong liaison between groups to ensure appropriate discussion of cross-cutting Articles.
4. In further analysis of the results from BSWG5, the Bureau recommended that an annotated text should be drafted by the secretariat, identifying inconsistencies, editorial errors, duplications, and an overview of the protocol and the bracketed text but with no analysis of the consequences of choice of text. This should also be submitted to the meeting.

5. In reviewing the work of Contact group 1 on Definitions and Annexes, the Bureau agreed that where definitions could not be finalised early on, the Working group would continue on the basis of "working definitions".
6. Similarly, the critical issue of Annexes was discussed and the Bureau proposed that an early agreement on the number and content of the Annexes to the Protocol should be reached. It was concluded that at this stage the number of annexes should be kept to a minimum.

Mandate of the Working Groups and Contact Groups

7. The Bureau in considering the organisation of work and the mandates of the groups agreed that there should be no changes in the mandates of the existing groups. A legal drafting group under the authority of the Chairman should be formed no later than Tuesday. The legal drafting group would be a non-negotiating group chaired by the Bureau Member from the Bahamas - H.E Mrs. Lynn P. Holowesko. The group will be open ended, but would have as a minimum a core membership of two nominated delegates from each region. The legal drafting group would at the same time serve as a linguistic group.
8. The Bureau recommended that regional groups agree on nominations for the legal drafting group during the regional consultation meetings, and that these nominations be available for the Chair for the Sunday Plenary.

Final Act and Conference Decisions

9. The Bureau agreed that both draft decisions for the Extraordinary Conference of the Parties, and a draft Final Act, will be developed by the secretariat, and that these decisions will be discussed at the 6th meeting based on informal consultations conducted by the Bureau Members Mr. Darryl Dunn (New Zealand) and Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould el Gaouth (Mauritania). Participants at the 6th meeting should be prepared to consider which decisions, if any, the Working group should recommend be attached to the Final Act.

10. Proposed structure of the 6th Meeting of the Open Ended ad hoc Working group on Biosafety: Cartagena, Colombia, February 1999.

	AM	PM	NIGHT
Friday 12 February*		Regional and inter-regional Consultations	
Saturday 13 February		Regional and inter-regional Consultations	
Sunday 14 February	-	Opening Plenary	SWG/CG**
Monday 15 February	SWG/CG	SWG/CG	SWG/CG
Tuesday 16 February	SWG/CG	SWG/CG	Plenary
Wednesday 17 February	SWG/CG	SWG/CG	SWG/CG
Thursday 18 February	SWG/CG	SWG/CG	Plenary
Friday 19 February	SWG/CG	SWG/CG	Plenary

* If requested by a regional group

** SWG - Sub-Working Groups

CG - Contact Groups

Mini Plenary sessions may be called if necessary.
