



CBD



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INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

First meeting

Montpellier, France, 11-15 December 2000

Agenda item 4.2

CAPACITY-BUILDING (ARTICLE 22, ARTICLE 28)

*Operation and design of the biosafety roster of experts: paper submitted by
the United States of America*

Note by the Executive Secretary

At the request of the delegation of the United States of America, the Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP), a paper submitted by the United States of America on the operation and design of the biosafety roster of experts. The information is being distributed in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

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Operation and Design of the Biosafety Roster of Experts

A. Purpose of the Biosafety Roster of Experts

1. The CBD Conference of the Parties at the January 29th resumed session of the EXCOP decided to establish a:

regionally balanced roster of experts nominated by Governments, in fields relevant to risk assessment and risk management related to the [Biosafety] Protocol, to provide advice and other support, as appropriate and upon request, to developing country Parties and parties with economies in transition, to conduct risk assessment, make informed decisions, develop national human resources and promote institutional strengthening, associated with the transboundary movement of living modified organisms [CBD document EM/3 III.14].

2. The purpose of the Biosafety roster of experts, therefore, differs from the purpose of the CBD rosters, which are drawn upon by the Executive Secretary to form technical expert groups in specific areas to undertake work as decided by CBD COPs.

B. Structure of the Roster

1. To promote easy accessibility by Parties, the Biosafety Roster of Experts is listed on its own page on the Biosafety Clearing-House.
2. The roster should list Experts according to one or more of the following categories: (1) Risk Assessment, (2) Risk Management, (3) Legislation and Regulation, and (4) Biotechnology research and development.
3. To facilitate locating Experts within each of the four categories the following key words, at a minimum, should be used: (1) Human resource development and (2) Institutional strengthening.
4. The basic format for information to be submitted on each Expert is consistent with existing CBD rosters, which includes for each Expert the categories of: name, nationality, gender, discipline/background, main expertise, nomination types (i.e. sector), and name of government submitting nomination.
5. To aid countries in evaluating the suitability and credentials of an Expert for the need envisioned, the roster should include a curriculum vitae or biography for each Expert, which identifies: (1) current employment, (2) education, (3) professional experience, (4) volunteer activities, (5) languages spoken, (6) references, and (7) publications.
6. To facilitate direct contact by governments, E-mail links should be available for each Expert listed on the roster where possible.

C. Nomination Process

1. To promote regional balance and recognizing that available expertise varies greatly from country to country, each Government may identify Experts in each of the above 4 categories up to a total of 25 Experts.
2. Government-nominated Experts are citizens or nationals of the country.
3. Government-nominated Experts may be employees of national or subnational levels of governments or may be from the non-government sector, including academia, research institutions, industry, and the environmental community.
4. Governments submit their Expert nomination to the CBD Executive Secretary for inclusion on the roster of experts, with complete information according to the agreed format and timetable.
5. Governments are responsible for evaluating the qualifications of its candidates and screening nominations before names and required information are submitted to the CBD Executive Secretary. It is not appropriate for the merits of the Government nominations to be evaluated by the CBD Secretariat or other body.
6. Governments review annually and update as needed their nominated list of Experts and related contact information and credentials.

D. Responsibilities and Duties of Experts

1. Experts listed on the Biosafety Roster provide advice and other support in their own "expert" capacity. They do not represent Governments.
2. Experts serve on the roster for one year, which may be extended for an additional year(s) only at the request of the nominating Government.
3. An Expert may provide his/her advice or other support services at no cost to the requesting Party.
4. Alternatively, an Expert may request and accept payment or other compensation for his/her advice or other support services under terms mutually agreed by the Expert and the contacting Party. Such an arrangement or contract is negotiated and concluded outside the context of the Biosafety Clearing-House and without the involvement of and/or recourse to the CBD Secretariat or the nominating Government.
5. Experts may decline to fulfill a request for advice or other support.

E. Role of the CBD Secretariat

1. The Secretariat serves as the coordinating mechanism for receiving Government nomination submissions for the roster, posting and maintaining the roster, and reporting on the status of the roster to the MOP. It does not engage or become involved in establishing agreed terms of assistance or other support between an Expert and a Party or in adjudicating problems that may arise in connection with such agreements or contracts (e.g., an alleged breach of contract).
2. The CBD Secretariat reviews Government submissions for completeness of information required.
3. The Executive Secretary will notify the nominating Government of any correspondence received regarding an Expert's credentials (e.g., conflict of interest).
4. The Executive Secretary may seek funds to support the costs of an Expert providing advice or other support to a Party.
5. The Executive Secretary may not release an Expert's personal contact information (e.g., telephone, address) to a requesting Party without the Expert's prior approval.