

**Minutes of the meeting of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee for
the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
28-29 August 2003**

Participation:

- ICCP Bureau members: Cameroon (Chair), France, Iran, Peru, Poland, South Africa, Switzerland and Ukraine;
- President of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;
- The representative of UNEP;
- The representative of UNEP/GEF
- The Executive Secretary of the CBD and other relevant staff of the Secretariat.

Agenda:

The meeting adopted the provisional agenda as attached hereto.

Deliberations of the meeting:

1. *Status of preparations of documentation for the first meeting of COP-MOP*

- The Bureau noted the list and contents of documents being prepared by the Secretariat for COP/MOP-1, and provided comments where required, which the Secretariat will take into account in finalizing the documents, in consultation with the Bureau, for distribution to governments.
- The Bureau considered also a number of issues related to the preparations for the possible establishment of a compliance committee at MOP-1, and requested the Secretariat to issue an appropriate notification in this regard, as soon as possible.
- Regarding the preparations by the host country (Malaysia) related to the organization of COP-7 and COP/MOP-1, the Executive Secretary provided a briefing to the Bureau on the basis of the current information availed by the host country. The Bureau recommended that the COP Bureau may wish to suggest the following to Malaysia: first, that the opening ceremony for COP/MOP-1 coincide with the closing ceremony for COP-7, and second, that if there is a high level / ministerial segment, that it cover both COP and COP-MOP. In this regard, the Executive Secretary invited Bureau members to make suggestions on the theme(s) for the high level / ministerial segment, which could be proposed to the host country. One suggestion was to make capacity-building for the effective implementation of the Protocol a possible theme for consideration.

2. *Preparations for entry into force of the Protocol*

The Bureau considered a number of issues under this item.

Transition from the pilot phase to the fully operational phase of the BCH

- The Bureau agreed that any decisions regarding the transition from the pilot phase of the BCH can only be taken by MOP. Furthermore, the Bureau agreed that the BCH in its current form is ready for entry into force of the Protocol, and can be used by Parties and others regardless of whether it is a pilot phase or not. The MOP will take its decision on the modalities of operation of the BCH on the basis of experience in the use of BCH by Parties and governments.
- In order to build experience with the BCH in its current state, between entry into force and COP/MOP-1, the Bureau agreed that the Secretariat should send a notification to all governments requesting that information on existing decisions related to the provisions of Article 10 and Article 11, paragraph 1, be provided to the BCH.

Notification regarding highlights of basic requirements of Parties at entry into force – The Secretariat introduced a draft notification highlighting basic requirements at entry into force, which has been updated from the notification of October 2002, taking into account feedback that was received. The Bureau provided some specific suggestions for improvement, and requested the Secretariat to issue it as soon as possible before the entry into force of the Protocol.

Logo – The Secretariat introduced this issue, highlighting for the Bureau practical considerations regarding if, how and when to implement a logo for the Protocol. After a brief discussion, the Bureau agreed to reconsider the matter at the next joint meeting of the Bureaux of the COP and the ICCP, and noted also that implementation of a logo for the Protocol would need consideration by both the COP and the COP/MOP.

3. *Date and venue for the next ICCP Bureau meeting*

It was agreed that the next meeting of the ICCP Bureau would be a joint meeting with the COP Bureau, to be held on 15 November 2003 at the offices of the Secretariat, in the margins of the meeting of SBSTTA-9.

4. *Any other matters*

Briefing on the ongoing work under the UNEP/GEF Project on development of national biosafety frameworks (NBF)

The representative of UNEP/GEF provided an update on the status and implementation of the activities under UNEP/GEF (e.g.: activities related to the NBF development project, the NBF implementation projects, and the planned BCH capacity-building project).

Cooperation with other organizations

The Executive Secretary updated the Bureau on some of the activities of the Secretariat related to cooperation with other organizations.

Closing – The Executive Secretary thanked the Bureau for its leadership and guidance over the past 3 years, and invited the Bureau to celebrate the imminent entry into force of the Protocol.
