



# **CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Distr.  
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/2/4/Add.1  
7 February 2005

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

---

## **CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY**

Second meeting

Montreal, 30 May-3 June 2005

Agenda item 6 of the provisional agenda\*

### **CAPACITY-BUILDING**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

*Addendum*

### **REPORT ON THE ROSTER OF BIOSAFETY EXPERTS**

#### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. In paragraph 14 of its decision EM-I/3, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity established a regionally balanced roster of experts nominated by Governments, in fields relevant to risk assessment and risk management related to the 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 movements of living modified organisms (LMOs).

2. At its first meeting serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, the Conference of the Parties adopted, in Section I of its decision BS-I/4, Interim Guidelines for the Roster of Experts on Biosafety, and requested the Executive Secretary, as administrator of the roster, to implement the functions specified therein, and to report to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on the status of the use of the roster, with a view to monitoring the regional balance in the use of experts.

---

\* UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/2/1.

/...

3. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its sixth meeting, established a trust fund, on a pilot-phase basis, to be administered by the Secretariat, for voluntary contributions from Parties and Governments for the specific purpose of supporting developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition to pay for the use of experts selected from the roster; and requested the Executive Secretary to seek submissions from Governments on the operation of this Fund, and report thereon to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

4. In section II of decision BS-I/4, the Conference of the Parties adopted Interim Guidelines for the Pilot Phase of the Voluntary Fund for the Roster of Experts on Biosafety, and requested the Executive Secretary, to administer the pilot phase of the Voluntary Fund in accordance with the Interim Guidelines, and to provide the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, after four years, with an evaluation of its performance along with recommendations for any necessary future actions.

5. The Interim Guidelines for the Pilot Phase of the Voluntary Fund for the Roster of Experts on Biosafety, require the Secretariat to report on the status, operation and use of the pilot phase of the voluntary fund for consideration at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

6. Also at its first meeting, in its decision BS-I/12, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopted a medium-term programme of work, which includes as a standing item "Report on the status of capacity-building activities and the use of the roster of biosafety experts".

7. The present note includes a report on the status and use of the roster of experts (section II), and a report on the status, operation and use of the pilot phase of the Voluntary Trust Fund (section III).

## **II. REPORT ON THE STATUS AND USE OF THE ROSTER OF EXPERTS ON BIOSAFETY**

8. As of 4 January 2005, the roster contained 549 experts nominated by a total of 68 Governments. The regional breakdown is as follows:

<i>Region</i>	<i>No. of Governments making nominations</i>	<i>No. of experts nominated</i>	<i>Percentage of total number of nominations</i>
Africa	16	163	29.7 %
Asia and the Pacific	18	134	24.4 %
Central and Eastern Europe/ Commonwealth of Independent States	10	85	15.5 %
Latin America and the Caribbean	13	66	12.0 %
Western Europe and Others	11	101	18.4 %

9. The gender balance is 116 female, 343 male, and 90 unspecified.

10. The breakdown by areas of expertise is as follows:

<i>Area of expertise</i>	<i>No. of experts</i>
Legislation and regulation	169

Risk assessment and risk management	401
Social and economic sciences	108
Institutional development	171
Teaching and training	141
Public awareness and participation	123
Data management and information-sharing	60
Research and development	104

11. These statistics are updated daily and can be accessed through the Biosafety Clearing-House. In accordance with the Interim Guidelines for the Roster of Experts on Biosafety, the Executive Secretary also reports these statistics once annually in the fourth quarterly report of the Secretariat, and publishes at the end of each calendar year a written version of the roster for distribution to each Party. At any time during the year, Parties may request an updated version. Alternatively, the printable version of the roster is updated daily and is available for download via the Biosafety Clearing-House.

12. One of the functions of the Executive Secretary, as administrator of the roster, is to assist Parties, on request, in identifying appropriate experts or verifying the availability of experts. As of 4 January 2005, the Executive Secretary has not received any requests in this regard.

13. Another function of the Executive Secretary, as administrator of the roster, is to make available, through the Biosafety Clearing-House, any evaluations of advice or support provided by Parties. As of 4 January 2005, the Executive Secretary has not received any reports in this regard.

### **III. REPORT ON THE STATUS, OPERATION AND USE OF THE PILOT PHASE OF THE VOLUNTARY FUND FOR THE ROSTER OF EXPERTS**

14. During 2003, a contribution to the pilot phase of the Voluntary Fund was received from one Government: the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. However, this contribution was re-allocated at the request of the donor to other activities under the Protocol, and there is currently no money in the Fund.

15. As of 4 January 2005, the Executive Secretary has not received any requests for use of the Fund.

16. One of the functions of the Executive Secretary, as administrator of the pilot phase of the Fund, is to make available, through the Biosafety Clearing-House, any reports on expert assignments that are supported by the pilot phase of the Fund. As of 4 January 2005, the Executive Secretary has not received any reports in this regard.

17. In accordance with the Interim Guidelines for the Pilot Phase of the Voluntary Fund for the Roster of Experts on Biosafety, reports on the status, operation and use of the pilot phase of the Voluntary Fund for the roster are made once annually in the fourth quarterly report of the Secretariat, and are available through the Biosafety Clearing-House.

#### **IV. RECOMMENDATION**

18. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol may wish to reiterate its calls to Parties and Governments to:

(a) Submit nominations of experts to the Secretariat in accordance with the Interim Guidelines for the Roster of Experts on Biosafety, using the nomination form available through the Biosafety Clearing-House or from the Secretariat;

(b) Update, or request their nominated experts to update, the information currently contained in the roster, for each field of the nomination form, with a view to providing sufficient detail to discern the particular areas of knowledge and specialization for each expert; and

(c) Use the Interim Guidelines for the Roster of Experts on Biosafety, and in this regard to encourage Parties and Governments to provide reports to the Executive Secretary on the assistance or advice provided by the experts in accordance with section J of the Interim Guidelines, with a view to contributing to the review of the roster that will be undertaken two years after the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

19. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol may also wish to reiterate its call to Governments and other donors to make contributions to the pilot phase of the Voluntary Fund for the roster of experts.

-----