



Convention on Biological Diversity

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

Sixth meeting

Hyderabad, India, 1-5 October 2012

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Revised annotations to the provisional agenda

INTRODUCTION

1. Following the offer of the Government of India, which was welcomed by the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in its decision X/46, the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP) will be held in Hyderabad, India. The meeting will take place from 1 to 5 October 2012 and will be held in conjunction with the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.
2. Consultations among delegations and preparatory meetings of regional groups may be held on 30 September 2012. Registration for the meeting will commence on Sunday, 30 September 2012, from noon to 6 p.m. and continue on Monday, 1 October 2012 from 8 a.m. at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre, Hyderabad, India.

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The meeting will be opened at 10 am on 1 October 2012 by the President of the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in accordance with rule 21, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure. Opening statements may also be made by, among others, representative(s) of the host country, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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ITEM 2. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

2.1. Officers

4. The current Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention shall serve as the Bureau of the meeting. In accordance with Article 29, paragraph 3, of the Protocol, any member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties representing a Party to the Convention but, at that time, not a Party to the Protocol, shall be substituted by a member to be elected by and from among the Parties to the Protocol.

5. To date, the meeting of Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol comes before the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. Bureau members are elected at the commencement of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. In the past, there were occasions where one or more Bureau members were elected from Parties to the Convention that were not Parties to the Protocol. This resulted in the need to elect reserve Bureau member, at least one from each region, for substitution, as appropriate, in the event that, at its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention elects Bureau members from Parties to the Convention not Parties to the Protocol. This arrangement is to ensure the full representation of all regions in the Bureau.

2.2. Adoption of the agenda

6. In decision BS-V/16, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopted a Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011–2020 and its programme of work for the period 2012–2016, contained in annexes I and II of the decision respectively. In accordance with the programme of work and pursuant to rules 8 and 9 of the rules of procedure for meetings of the Parties, the Executive Secretary has prepared a provisional agenda, (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/1), for consideration by the Parties at their sixth meeting. The provisional agenda reflects the standing issues identified in the programme of work and the rolling substantive issues arising from previous decisions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol and issues stipulated in the operational objectives of the Strategic Plan.

7. The Parties to the Protocol will be invited to consider and adopt the agenda for the meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary.

2.3. Organization of work

8. The meeting will be invited to consider and adopt the proposal for organization of its work as contained in annex I to this document which provides for a plenary and two working groups. The Executive Secretary prepared this proposal in consultation with the Bureau, with a view to assisting the present meeting to consider all the items on its agenda in the timeframe available. The proposal builds on the experience gained with the past five meetings of the COP-MOP, during which a plenary and two working groups were established.

9. Interpretation will be available for the morning and afternoon sessions of the two working groups.

10. The working documents and the information documents prepared for the meeting are listed in annex II to this document.

ITEM 3. REPORT ON THE CREDENTIALS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

11. In accordance with rules 18 and 19 of the rules of procedure, the credentials of representatives to the sixth meeting of the Parties shall be examined by the Bureau of the meeting who will submit a report thereon to the plenary for appropriate decision.
12. In order to assist Parties in fulfilling the requirements of rule 18, the Executive Secretary has prepared a sample format of appropriate credentials, which has been distributed to national focal points as an annex to the letter of invitation to the meeting.
13. The Parties will be invited to consider and adopt the report on credentials submitted by the Bureau.

II. STANDING ITEMS

ITEM 4. REPORT OF THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

14. The Compliance Committee under the Protocol is required to report and submit its recommendations to the Parties. Accordingly, the Committee submitted its report on the work undertaken at its sixth and seventh meetings as well as its recommendations to the fifth meeting of the Parties, which considered them and took appropriate decisions.
15. In their decision BS-V/1, the Parties expanded the grounds upon which the compliance procedures under the Protocol may be activated. According to section IV of the compliance procedures (decision BS-I/7) the Compliance Committee was supposed to receive submissions relating to compliance only from a Party with respect to itself or with respect to another Party. In light of decision BS-V/1, however, the Committee may now also consider cases concerning the compliance of a Party that fails to submit its national report, or a Party, for which, information received through a national report or the Biosafety Clearing-House, shows that it is faced with difficulties complying with one or more of its obligations.
16. At their fifth meeting, the Parties also elected new members to the Committee to replace those whose terms were due to expire at the end of 2010.
17. The Compliance Committee held its eighth meeting from 5 to 7 October 2011 in Montreal. At that meeting the Committee developed a methodology and a work programme that would guide its future supportive role and activities as well as that of the Secretariat in the context of decision BS-V/1. The Committee also held its ninth meeting from 29 May to 1 June 2012. At that meeting, the Committee reviewed compliance on the basis of information submitted by Parties in their second national reports. In that regard, the Committee reviewed the rate of reporting and the number of reports that are not complete. The Committee adopted its report on the work undertaken at its two meetings (eighth and ninth meetings) and prepared recommendations for submission to the sixth meeting of the Parties.
18. At their sixth meeting, the Parties are therefore expected to consider the report and the recommendations of the Compliance Committee (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/2) and to take appropriate action.

19. The Parties will also be invited to elect new members to the Compliance Committee in order to replace ten members (two from each of the five regions) whose term is due to expire at the end of 2012.

ITEM 5. OPERATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE

20. Paragraph 1 of Article 20 of the Protocol establishes the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) in order to facilitate the exchange of information and experience pertaining to living modified organisms (LMOs) and assist Parties to implement the Protocol.

21. At their first meeting, the Parties to the Protocol adopted the modalities of operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House (decision BS-I/3, annex) which defined in detail the role, characteristics, functions and modalities of review of the BCH. At their second meeting, the Parties adopted a multi-year programme of work for the BCH (decision BS-II/2, annex), which set out a number of objectives for the operation of the BCH and highlights possible activities to achieve these objectives. At their fifth meeting, the Parties also adopted a Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020 (decision BS-V/16, annex I) in which "Information sharing" is set out as one of the Strategic Objectives (Focal area 4) with the following three operational objectives: (i) to increase the amount and quality of information submitted to and retrieved from the BCH (BCH effectiveness); (ii) to establish the BCH as a fully functional and effective platform for assisting countries in the implementation of the Protocol (BCH as a tool for online discussions and conferences); and (iii) to enhance understanding through other information exchange mechanisms (information sharing other than through the BCH).

22. Accordingly, under this item, the Executive Secretary has prepared a note (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/3) outlining the progress made on the implementation of the BCH. It contains a progress report on the programme elements identified in the Multi-Year Programme of Work and a preliminary assessment of the BCH based on the information from the second national reports using the indicators of the strategic plan of the Protocol. A report on the two inter-sessional meetings held by the BCH Informal Advisory Committee has also been made available as an information document (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/1).

23. The Parties to the Protocol will be invited to take note of the progress report and to provide, as appropriate, further guidance on the operation and activities of the Biosafety Clearing-House.

ITEM 6. MATTERS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM AND RESOURCES

24. At their previous meetings, the Parties to the Protocol adopted decisions on matters related to the financial mechanism and resources which included recommendations to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding guidance to the financial mechanism with respect to biosafety (decisions BS-III/5, BS-IV/5 and BS-V/5).

25. At their sixth meeting, the Parties will be invited to review the status of implementation of their previous decisions, including the guidance provided to the financial mechanism with respect to biosafety, and consider the need for further guidance.

26. To assist the Parties in their consideration of this item, the Executive Secretary has prepared a note (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/4) providing a summary report on the status of implementation of the previous guidance to the financial mechanism with respect to biosafety, a synthesis of information provided in the second national reports regarding the Parties' experiences in accessing existing funds

from the Global Environment Facility, and a report on means of mobilizing additional financial resources for the implementation of the Protocol. The meeting will also have before it the full report submitted by the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on the status of implementation of the guidance to the financial mechanism, including the guidance with respect to biosafety.

**ITEM 7. COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS,
CONVENTIONS AND INITIATIVES**

27. At their fifth meeting, the Parties in decision BS-V/6, on cooperation with other organizations, conventions and initiatives, requested the Executive Secretary to: (a) pursue memoranda of understanding with the International Organization for Standardization and the International Seed Testing Association to further cooperation with these organizations in the context of Article 18; (b) continue participating in the relevant meetings of the international standard-setting organizations referred to in decision BS-II/6; (c) cooperate with other organizations, conventions and initiatives that are developing work on information-sharing mechanisms with the aim of: (i) identifying possible linkages; and (ii) avoiding, as appropriate, the development of incompatible or duplicate data-sets and guaranteeing the reliability of the information provided; and (d) maintain cooperation with organizations involved in packaging and transport rules and standards.

28. Under focal area 5 of the Strategic Plan of the Protocol, the Parties adopted a strategic objective to promote cooperation with an expected impact to increase support from and collaboration with relevant organizations, conventions and initiatives for the implementation of the Protocol. In this strategic objective, there is an operational objective to enhance international cooperation and collaboration in biosafety with outcomes to establish official relationships with secretariats of other conventions and organizations and to have the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity as an observer to World Trade Organization's (WTO) Committees on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).

29. To facilitate the discussions under this item, the Executive Secretary will provide an update on cooperative activities between the Secretariat and other organizations, conventions and initiatives relevant to the implementation of the Protocol including the Green Customs Initiative, the International Plant Protection Convention and the Secretariat of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/5). The Parties will be invited to take note of the report and to provide, as appropriate, further guidance on cooperation, and/or to incorporate, as the case may be, the on-going cooperation into its consideration of relevant items on its agenda.

**ITEM 8. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE
ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROTOCOL AND ON
BUDGETARY MATTERS**

30. In their decision BS-V/7, the Parties to the Protocol adopted a programme budget for the distinct costs of the secretariat services and for the biosafety work programme of the Protocol for the biennium 2011-2012. In paragraph 24 of the decision, the COP-MOP requested the Executive Secretary to prepare and submit, for its sixth meeting, a programme budget for secretariat services and the biosafety work programme of the Protocol for the biennium 2013-2014, and to provide three alternatives for the budget based on:

- (a) An assessment of the required rate of growth for the programme budget;

(b) Increasing the core programme budget (BG Trust Fund) from the 2011-2012 level by 10 per cent in nominal terms; and

(c) Maintaining the core programme budget (BG Trust Fund) from the 2011-2012 level in nominal terms.

31. The Parties will be invited to review the notes prepared by the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Protocol and on budgetary matters (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/6 and Add.1) and provide, as appropriate, further guidance and take necessary action.

III. SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES ARISING FROM THE PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PREVIOUS DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

ITEM 9. STATUS OF CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF THE ROSTER OF BIOSAFETY EXPERTS

A. Status of capacity-building activities

32. At their first meeting, the Parties adopted an Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol and established a Coordination Mechanism for the implementation of the Action Plan. At their third meeting, the Parties adopted an updated Action Plan and decided to conduct comprehensive reviews of the Action Plan every five years, based on an independent evaluation of initiatives taken to support its implementation (decision BS-III/3). At their fifth meeting, the Parties to the Protocol, in decision BS-V/3, agreed on the terms of reference and the process leading up to the comprehensive review of the Action Plan at the present meeting. In paragraph 19 of the same decision, the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to organize an online forum to identify strategic approaches to capacity-building and develop a capacity assessment framework and a framework for monitoring and evaluation, and submit the outcomes to the sixth meeting. In paragraph 15 of decision BS-IV/4, the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to continue undertaking measures to improve the implementation of the Coordination Mechanism and provide a report to the sixth meeting.

33. Under this item, the Parties will be invited to consider the status of capacity-building activities under the Protocol and conduct a comprehensive review of the updated Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol and its revision, as appropriate. In doing so, the Parties may wish to take into account the findings of the independent evaluation, the submissions by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, and the outcomes of the online forum on strategic approaches to capacity-building, the capacity assessment framework and the framework for monitoring and evaluation of the Action Plan. Finally, the meeting will consider the status of the implementation of the Coordination Mechanism and provide further guidance.

34. To facilitate discussions under this item, the meeting will have before it a note (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/7) by the Executive Secretary outlining the status of capacity-building activities under the Protocol, including the status of implementation of the Coordination Mechanism. It will also have before it a note (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/7/Add.1) prepared by the Executive Secretary to facilitate the comprehensive review of the Action Plan, taking into account the findings of the independent evaluation of the Action Plan, the submissions by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and the information provided in the second national reports. The meeting will also have before it, as information documents: (i) the report of the independent evaluation of the Action Plan

(UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/2); (ii) report of the online forum on strategic approaches to capacity-building, the capacity assessment framework and the framework for monitoring and evaluation of capacity-building Action Plan (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/3); (iii) a compilation of the submissions by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations made in accordance with paragraphs 13 and 15 of decision BS-V/3 (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/4); (iv) reports of the eighth and ninth meetings of the Liaison Group on Capacity-building for Biosafety (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/5), and (v) reports of the seventh and eighth coordination meetings for Governments and organizations implementing and/or funding biosafety capacity-building activities (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/6).

B. Roster of experts on biosafety

35. In its decision EM-I/3, paragraph 14, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity established a regionally balanced roster of experts nominated by Governments 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. In paragraph 27 of decision VI/29, the Conference of the Parties also established, on a pilot basis, a Voluntary Fund to support eligible countries to pay for the use of experts selected from the roster.

36. In decision BS-IV/4 the Parties to the Protocol adopted a number of measures aimed at improving the quality and operation of the roster and also decided to revitalize the pilot phase of the Voluntary Fund for the Roster of Experts. In decision BS-V/4, the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in preparation for the evaluation of the performance of the roster at the sixth meeting, to review the experience with the use of the roster, identify the challenges faced and assess future needs, on the basis of the information provided by Parties and other Governments. The Executive Secretary was also requested to propose, as appropriate, amendments to the nomination form based on the operational experience with the roster.

37. The present meeting will review the status and evaluate the performance of the roster and of the Voluntary Fund for the Roster and take decisions, as appropriate, to further improve them. The meeting will have before it a note (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP MOP/6/7/Add.2) by the Executive Secretary, providing an update on the current status of the roster and the use of the Voluntary Fund for the Roster and a synthesis of submissions of the by Parties and other Governments regarding their experiences and challenges in nominating to and using experts from the roster, their projected future needs as well as views for improving the nomination processes and the nomination form.

ITEM 10. HANDLING, TRANSPORT, PACKAGING AND IDENTIFICATION (ARTICLE 18)

10.1 Article 18, paragraphs 2 (b) and (c)

38. Paragraphs 2(b) and (c) of Article 18 of the Protocol address the handling, transport, packaging and identification requirements for LMOs destined for contained use and LMOs intended for intentional introduction into the environment, respectively. The Parties also elaborated upon these requirements in decision BS-I/6.

39. Decision BS-IV/8 adopted by the COP-MOP at its fourth meeting requested Parties and encouraged other Governments and relevant international organizations to continue to implement the requirements under paragraphs 2(b) and (c) of Article 18 of the Protocol and associated decisions of the

COP-MOP. The Parties agreed to review this matter at their sixth meeting in light of the review of experience based on the analysis of the second national reports.

40. Accordingly, the sixth meeting of the COP-MOP will have before it a note (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/8) by the Executive Secretary synthesizing the relevant information from the second national reports regarding Articles 18.2(b) and (c) for consideration of further action, as appropriate.

10.2 Article 18, paragraph 3

41. In paragraph 1 (d) of decision BS-V/9, the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to commission a study to analyse information on existing standards, methods and guidance relevant to the handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms. The study is to address in particular:

- (a) Possible gaps in existing standards, guidance and methods;
- (b) Ways to facilitate cooperation with relevant organisations;
- (c) Guidance on the use of existing international regulations and standards;
- (d) The possible need for the elaboration of standards for handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms.

42. The Parties to the Protocol will therefore have before them a note by the Executive Secretary presenting a summary of the results from the commissioned study (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/9). The full study will be available as an information document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/24.

43. In paragraph 1(a) of decision BS-V/9, the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to continue following developments in standards related to the handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms and to report to the Parties at their sixth meeting on any such developments. Accordingly, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will have before it an information note by the Executive Secretary summarizing developments on existing rules and standards (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/7).

44. The Parties will also have before them an information document regarding other aspects of decision BS-V/9 such as the regional workshops for customs officers requiring capacity in the sampling and detection of living modified organisms (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/8) and the electronic network of detection and identification laboratories in the Biosafety Clearing-House (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/9).

ITEM 11. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS (ARTICLE 8)

45. At their second meeting, the Parties considered this item and agreed to keep it under review (decision BS-II/8). Accordingly, the Parties considered the matter at their fourth meeting. However, they were unable to come up with any specific course of action because of the lack of adequate information on experiences in the national implementation of the notification requirements under Article 8 of the Protocol. They decided to further review the item at their sixth meeting based on implementation experiences that may be communicated through the second national reports (decision BS-IV/18).

46. The present meeting will have before it a note prepared by the Executive Secretary based on information on the implementation of notification requirements under Article 8 of the Protocol

(UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/10) as synthesized from the second national reports for its consideration and further guidance.

ITEM 12. NAGOYA-KUALA LUMPUR SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL ON LIABILITY AND REDRESS TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

47. At their fifth meeting, the Parties adopted the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress. The Supplementary Protocol was adopted after several years of negotiations that were launched and concluded in the context of the Article 27 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

48. In their decision BS-V/11, adopting the Supplementary Protocol, the Parties called upon Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to sign and subsequently ratify the Supplementary Protocol, and encouraged them to implement it pending its entry into force.

49. The Supplementary Protocol was open for signature at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 7 March 2011 to 6 March 2012.

50. According to the programme of work of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2012 – 2016, contained in Annex II of decision BS-V/16, the sixth meeting of the Parties to the Protocol is expected to consider the status of signature, ratification or accession to the Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress. Accordingly the Executive Secretary will submit a status report as document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/11.

ITEM 13. UNINTENTIONAL TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS AND EMERGENCY MEASURES (ARTICLE 17)

51. Article 17 of the Protocol requires each Party to take appropriate measures to notify and consult with affected or potentially affected States and other relevant bodies when it knows of an occurrence under its jurisdiction resulting in a release that leads, or may lead, to an unintentional transboundary movement of a living modified organism that is likely to have significant adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health. The notification must be provided as soon as the Party knows of such situation. Each Party is also required to make available to the Biosafety Clearing-House the relevant details of its point of contact. Notification regarding situations of unintentional transboundary movements of living modified organisms should include relevant information on the quantity, characteristics and traits of the living modified organism, the estimated date of release, the use of living modified organism in the originating Party, and the possible adverse effects, and any other relevant information.

52. In adopting the programme of work for the period 2012–2016 (decision BS-V/16, annex II), the Parties agreed to include in the work plan for their sixth meeting an item on unintentional transboundary movements of living modified organism in the context of Article 17 and operational objective 1.8 of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (decision BS-V/16, annex I). Under this item, the Parties to the Protocol are invited to consider the development of tools and guidance that may facilitate appropriate responses to unintentional transboundary movements, including emergency measures.

53. To facilitate discussions on this item, the Executive Secretary will prepare a note (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/12) that will include information from the second national reports as regards unintentional transboundary movement of living modified organisms.

ITEM 14. RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT (ARTICLES 15 AND 16)

54. At their fourth meeting, the Parties to the Protocol in their decision BS-IV/11 established: (i) an open-ended online forum through the Biosafety Clearing-House; and (ii) an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Risk Assessment and Risk Management with the objective to develop further guidance on specific aspects of risk assessment and risk management. At its fifth meeting, in decision BS-V/12, the Parties welcomed the document “Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms” produced through the joint efforts of the two groups and mandated both the AHTEG and the online forum to work, primarily online with the view to achieving:

- (a) A revised version of the “Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms”;
- (b) A mechanism, including criteria, for future updates of the lists of background materials;
and
- (c) Further guidance on new specific topics of risk assessment, selected on the basis of the priorities and needs by the Parties and taking into account the topics identified in the previous intersessional period.

55. At their fourth meeting, the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to coordinate and facilitate the development of training on risk assessment and risk management in relation to living modified organisms, and to convene regional or subregional training courses to enable countries to gain hands-on experience in preparing and evaluating risk-assessment reports in accordance with the articles and Annex III of the Protocol.

56. At their fifth meeting, the Parties welcomed the development of a training manual “Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms” as well as the reports of two subregional training courses on risk assessment (for the Asian and Pacific subregions). It also requested the Executive Secretary to:

- (a) Submit the training manual to experts and other reviewers from Parties and other Governments for an assessment of its effectiveness;
- (b) Convene further regional or subregional training courses;
- (c) Improve the training manual by revising it on the basis of the recommendations provided during the capacity-building activities and feedback from Parties; and
- (d) Develop an interactive learning tool based on the training manual, and make it available through the Biosafety Clearing-House.

57. The Parties also deliberated on mechanisms to facilitate the identification of living modified organisms that *may have* or *are not likely to have* adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health. In decision BS-V/12, the COP-MOP:

- (a) Urged Parties and invited other Governments to submit to the Biosafety Clearing-House, decisions and risk assessments where potential adverse effects have been identified, as well as any other relevant information that may assist Parties in the identification of living modified organisms or specific traits that *may have* adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, including information, if possible, when a decision is not taken due to the potential of a living modified organism to cause adverse effects when introduced into specific environments.

(b) Requested Parties and invited other Governments and relevant organizations to submit to the Executive Secretary (i) information on risk assessments, carried out on a case-by-case basis with regards to the receiving environment of the living modified organism, that might assist Parties in the identification of living modified organisms that *are not likely to have* adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, and (ii) the criteria that were considered for the identification of such living modified organisms; and

(c) Requested the Executive Secretary to compile the information for consideration by the Parties at their sixth meeting.

58. The Parties to the Protocol will have before them a note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/13) summarizing the activities coordinated by the Secretariat on risk assessment and risk management during the intersessional period including possible future activities based on elements drawn from the Strategic Plan as well as the “Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms” (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/13/Add.1) for their consideration and further steps. The final reports of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/10), an analysis report of the Open-ended Online Expert Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/11), as well as the revised training manual “Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms” (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/12) will be made available as information documents.

ITEM 15. SUBSIDIARY BODIES (ARTICLE 30)

59. At their first meeting, the Parties agreed in paragraph 2 of decision BS-I/11 to consider, at their third meeting, the need for designating or establishing a permanent subsidiary body that will provide the Parties with timely advice on scientific and technical issues arising in relation to the implementation of the Protocol. At their third meeting, the Parties noted that there are various mechanisms by which scientific and technical advice may be provided, including, *inter alia*, the potential designation or establishment of a permanent subsidiary body, or use of subsidiary bodies or mechanisms that may be created on an ad hoc basis. In this regard, the Parties decided to consider, at their fourth meeting, such potential mechanisms and requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a pre-sessional paper including a review of the impacts and effectiveness of existing processes under the Convention and the cost estimates for various potential mechanisms (decision BS-III/13). At their fourth meeting, the Parties took note of the document prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/4/12), which identifies potential mechanisms for the provision of scientific and technical advice and the estimated costs associated with each such potential mechanism and decided to establish, as necessary, ad hoc technical expert groups, with specific mandates to address one or more scientific and technical issues as the need arises. It also agreed to consider, at the present meeting, the need to establish an open-ended subsidiary body for scientific and technical advice under the Protocol.

60. To facilitate discussions on this item, the meeting will have before it a note by the Executive Secretary which provides an update on the potential mechanisms for the provision of scientific and technical advice and their estimated costs presented in the document prepared for the fourth meeting of the Parties, taking into account the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety adopted the fifth meeting and the information provided by Parties in their second national reports (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/14). The note will also include a review of the operations and experiences of ad hoc technical expert groups established to date.

ITEM 16. SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS (ARTICLE 26)

61. In paragraphs 24 and 25 of decision BS-V/3, the Parties to the Protocol requested the Executive Secretary to convene:

(a) Regional online conferences to (i) facilitate the exchange of views, information and experiences on socio-economic considerations on a regional basis; and (ii) identify possible issues for further consideration; and

(b) A regionally-balanced workshop on capacity-building for research and information exchange on socio-economic impacts of living modified organisms.

62. The Executive Secretary was also requested to synthesize the outcomes of the online conferences and workshop and submit a report to the sixth meeting of the Parties for consideration of further steps.

63. Furthermore, at their fourth meeting, the Parties agreed to review the issue of research and information exchange on socio-economic considerations at their sixth meeting based on information that may be provided through the second national reports.

64. Accordingly, under this item, the meeting will have before it a note by the Executive Secretary synthesizing the outcomes of the inter-sessional activities on socio-economic considerations and an analysis of the relevant information from the second national reports (UNEP/CBD/COP-MOP/6/15) for consideration of further steps. The meeting will also have the report of the workshop as an information document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/13.

ITEM 17. MONITORING AND REPORTING (ARTICLE 33)

65. Article 33 of the Protocol requires each Party to report, at intervals to be determined by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (COP-MOP), on measures that it has taken to implement the Protocol.

66. In this regard, at its first meeting, the COP-MOP requested Parties to submit their reports every four years and twelve months prior to the meeting of the Parties that would consider the reports (decision BS-I/9). At their third meeting, the Parties adopted a reporting format for the first regular national report on the implementation of the Protocol. It also outlined a schedule and the process for the preparation and synthesis of the reports for its consideration at the fourth meeting of the COP-MOP (decision BS-III/14). At their fourth meeting, the Parties, after considering an analysis of first national reports prepared by the Secretariat, requested the Secretariat to repeat the analysis of the reports submitted after the deadline and make the analysis available through the BCH (decision BS-IV/14). In this decision, the Parties also requested the Secretariat to propose improvements to the reporting format based on: (i) experiences gained from the first national reports; (ii) the recommendations of the Compliance Committee; and (iii) suggestions made by Parties, for consideration at the fifth meeting of the Parties.

67. At their fifth meeting, the Parties adopted a new reporting format for the preparation of the second national reports (decision BS-V/14). It encouraged Parties to respond to all questions in the reporting format in order to facilitate the establishment of baselines for subsequent assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was also requested to make financial resources available to eligible Parties for the preparation of their second national reports. In accordance with the timing agreed in decision BS-I/9, the deadline for the submission of second national reports was set for 30 September 2011 for the commencement of the analysis of the reports. Upon further request from a number of Parties, the deadline was extended to 31 October 2011.

68. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary has prepared a note (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/16) which contains a synthesis of the main results of the analysis of the second national reports submitted. All the second national reports submitted by Parties have also been made available through the Biosafety Clearing-House. The Parties will be invited to consider the reports submitted and provide further guidance on the modalities of the preparation of the third national report currently scheduled to coincide with the mid-term review of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the third assessment and review of the Protocol by Parties at their eighth meeting.

**ITEM 18. SECOND ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW OF THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROTOCOL (ARTICLE 35)**

69. Article 35 of the Protocol requires the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to undertake, five years after the entry into force of the Protocol and at least every five years thereafter, an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Protocol, including an assessment of its procedures and annexes.

70. At their fourth meeting, the Parties to the Protocol recognized that the first assessment and review, which was supposed to be conducted at that meeting, could not lead to a meaningful evaluation of the effectiveness of the Protocol due to the limited experience gained by Parties in the implementation of the Protocol and the absence of a methodological approach. Accordingly in decision BS-IV/15, the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to: (i) develop a sound methodological approach to contribute to an effective second assessment and review of the Protocol; and (ii) draft criteria or indicators that could apply in the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Protocol.

71. At their fifth meeting, the Parties to the Protocol decided that: (i) the scope of the second assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol focus primarily on evaluating the status of implementation of core elements of the Protocol with identified elements and indicators; and (ii) the evaluation should be based on information on the implementation of the Protocol gathered through the second national reports, the Biosafety Clearing-House, information that might be made available through the Compliance Committee in relation to its functions to review general issues of compliance, the capacity-building coordination mechanism and other relevant processes and organizations.

72. The Parties further requested the Executive Secretary to collect and compile information on the implementation of the Protocol and to commission the analysis of such compilation of information with a view to facilitating the second assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol. The Parties also established a regionally balanced ad hoc technical expert group, to: (i) review the analysis of information gathered and analysed; and (ii) submit its recommendations to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties for its consideration.

73. Accordingly, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol will have before it a note prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/17), the analysis of the information on the implementation of the Protocol (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/17/Add.1) and recommendations from Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group Meeting on the Second Assessment and Review of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety that aim at the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Protocol under Article 35 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for its consideration and decision.

IV. FINAL MATTERS

ITEM 19. OTHER MATTERS

74. Under this item, the Parties to the Protocol may wish to consider other matters raised and accepted for discussion in accordance with the rules of procedure.

ITEM 20. DATE AND VENUE OF THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

75. In accordance with paragraph 2 of the rules of procedure, the Parties to the Protocol are to decide on the date and venue of their next ordinary meeting.

ITEM 21. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

76. The Parties will be invited to consider and adopt the report on the work of their sixth meeting, on the basis of the draft report that will be presented by the Rapporteur. In accordance with established practice, the Parties will be invited to authorize the Rapporteur to complete the final report after the meeting, with the guidance of the President of Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol and assistance of the Secretariat.

ITEM 22. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

77. It is expected that the sixth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety will be closed by its President in the afternoon of Friday, 5 October 2012.

Annex I

**PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS
THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY**

	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Working Group I</i>	<i>Working Group II</i>
<i>Monday</i> <i>1 October 2012</i> 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.	<i>Agenda item:</i> 1. Opening of the meeting		
----- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 2. Organizational matters: 2.1. Officers; 2.2. Adoption of the agenda; 2.3. Organization of work. 3. Report on the credentials of representatives to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Biosafety 4. Report of the Compliance Committee 6. Matters related to the financial mechanism and resources 7. Cooperation with other organizations, conventions and initiatives 8. Report of the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Protocol and on budgetary matters		

	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Working Group I</i>	<i>Working Group II</i>
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.		<p><i>Agenda items:</i></p> <p>4. Report of the Compliance Committee</p> <p>10. Handling, transport, packaging and identification (Article 18)</p> <p>11. Notification requirements (Article 8)</p> <p>12. Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress</p> <p>13. Unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures (Article 17)</p> <p>15. Subsidiary bodies (Article 30)</p>	<p><i>Agenda items:</i></p> <p>5. Operation and activities of the Biosafety Clearing-House</p> <p>9. Status of capacity-building activities and the use of the roster of biosafety experts.</p> <p>14. Risk assessment and risk management (Articles 15 and 16)</p> <p>16. Socio-economic considerations (Article 26)</p> <p>17. Monitoring and reporting (Article 33)</p> <p>18. Second assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol (Article 35)</p>
<p><i>Tuesday</i> <p>2 October 2012 <p>10 a.m to 11 a.m</p> </p> </p>		<p><i>Agenda items:</i></p> <p>Continuation of agenda items 4, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15</p>	<p><i>Agenda items:</i></p> <p>Continuation of agenda items 5, 9, 14, 16, 17 and 18</p>
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.		<p><i>Agenda items:</i></p> <p>Continuation of agenda items 4, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15</p>	<p><i>Agenda items:</i></p> <p>Continuation of agenda items 5, 9, 14, 16, 17 and 18</p>

	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Working Group I</i>	<i>Working Group II</i>
<i>Wednesday</i> <i>3 October 2012</i> 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.	Plenary to review progress of the working groups		
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> Continuation of agenda items 6, 7 and 8		
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.		<i>Agenda items:</i> Continuation of agenda items 4, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15	<i>Agenda items:</i> Continuation of agenda items 5, 9, 14, 16, 17 and 18
<i>Thursday</i> <i>4 October 2012</i> 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.		<i>Agenda items:</i> Continuation of agenda items 4, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15	<i>Agenda items:</i> Continuation of agenda items 5, 9, 14, 16, 17 and 18
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.		<i>Agenda items:</i> Continuation of agenda items 4, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15	<i>Agenda items:</i> Continuation of agenda items 5, 9, 14, 16, 17 and 18
<i>Friday</i> <i>5 October 2012</i> 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. <i>and</i> 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 19. Other matters 20. Date and venue for the seventh meeting of the Parties to the Protocol 21. Adoption of the report 22. Closure of the meeting		

Annex II

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

A. Working documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/2	Report of the Compliance Committee
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/3	Operation and activities of the Biosafety Clearing-House
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/4	Matters related to the financial mechanism and resources
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/5	Cooperation with other organizations, conventions and initiatives
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/6	Report of the Executive Secretary on the administration of the Protocol
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/6/Add.1	Report of the Executive Secretary on budgetary matters
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/7	Status of capacity-building activities under the Protocol
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/7/Add.1	Comprehensive review of the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/7/Add.2	Report on the use of the roster of experts on biosafety
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/8	Handling, transport, packaging and identification: Synthesis of the relevant information from the second national reports regarding Articles 18.2(b) and (c)
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/9	Analysis of information on standards relevant to the handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/10	Notification requirements under Article 8
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/11	Update on the Nagoya –Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress (Article 27).
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/12	Unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures (Article 17)
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/13	Risk assessment and risk management (Articles 15 and 16)
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/13/Add.1	Guidance on risk assessment of living modified organisms
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/14	Subsidiary bodies (Article 30)
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/15	Socio-economic considerations (Article 26): Synthesis of the outcomes of the inter-sessional activities on socio-economic considerations
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/16	Monitoring and reporting (Article 33): An analysis of the results and trends of the second national reports

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/17	Second assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol (Article 35)
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/17/Add.1	An analysis of the information on the implementation of the Protocol

B. Information documents

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/1	Report of intersessional meetings of the Informal Advisory Committee on the Biosafety Clearing-House
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/2	Report of the independent evaluation of the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Protocol
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/3	Report of the online forum on strategic approaches to capacity-building, the capacity assessment framework and the framework for monitoring and evaluation of capacity-building Action Plan
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/4	A compilation of the submissions by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations regarding their views and suggestions on possible revisions to the Action Plan and experiences with, and lessons learned from, the use of the revised set of indicators for monitoring and evaluating capacity-building activities
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/5	Reports of the eighth and ninth meetings of the Liaison Group on Capacity-building for Biosafety
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/6	Reports of the seventh and eighth coordination meetings for Governments and organizations implementing and/or funding biosafety capacity-building activities
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/7	Summary of the developments on existing rules and standards related to the handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/8	Report of the Central and Eastern European Regional Training of Trainers Workshop on the Identification and Documentation of Living Modified Organisms
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/9	Report of the electronic network of detection and identification laboratories in the Biosafety Clearing-House
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/10	Final Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/11	Analysis of the Online Discussions under the Open-Ended Online Expert Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management (March 2011 - April 2012)
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/12	Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms – Training manual
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/13	Report of the Workshop on Capacity-building for Research and Information Exchange on Socio-economic Impacts of Living Modified Organisms
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/14	Report on the implementation of the outreach strategy for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (2008-2012)
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/15	Report of the Caribbean Training Course on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/16	Informe del curso Latinoamericano de capacitación sobre la evaluación del riesgo de los organismos vivos modificados
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/17	Report of the Anglophone Africa Training Course on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/18	Submissions regarding the identification of living modified organisms that are not likely to have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/INF/19	Report of the Asian Sub-Regional Training of Trainers Workshop on the Identification and Documentation of Living Modified Organisms
UNE/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/INF/20	UNEP-GEF BCH activities report
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/21	Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group Meeting on the Second Assessment and Review of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/22	Preliminary Assessment of the Status of Implementation Using the Strategic Plan Indicators
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/23	Presentation on the second national reports on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/INF/24	Consultancy on the Analysis of Information on Standards Relevant to the Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification of Living Modified Organisms
