

**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/2
0
4 March 2002

ENGLISH ONLY

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY

Sixth meeting

The Hague, 7-19 April 2002

Item 24 of the provisional agenda*

**STRATEGIC PLAN, NATIONAL REPORTING AND OPERATIONS OF THE
CONVENTION**

*Input to the development of the Strategic Plan of the Convention, particularly with respect to draft
elements relating to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. In paragraph 7 of its recommendation 2/6, adopted at its second meeting, held in Nairobi from 1 to 5 October 2001, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP) invited Parties to the Convention and other States to provide the Executive Secretary with input to development of the Strategic Plan of the Convention, particularly with respect to draft elements relating to the Protocol.
2. In response to that invitation, the Secretariat has received inputs from Australia, the European Union and Slovenia, which are reproduced in the annex to the present note for the information of participants in the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/6/1 and Corr.1/Rev.1.

Annex

**INPUTS RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARIAT IN RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION
CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 7 OF RECOMMENDATION 2/6 OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY**

AUSTRALIA

[15 JANUARY 2002]
[ORIGINAL: ENGLISH]

Australia considers that development of the Strategic Plan of the Convention provides an opportunity to focus strategically on innovative ways that the Convention on Biological Diversity could engage with the broader international community and intervene to ensure biodiversity conservation. While recognising the importance of the range of work programs and decisions already agreed by Parties, Australia believes it would be more constructive and forward looking for the Plan to avoid restatement of them and instead outline future action that could be undertaken.

Australia does not consider it appropriate to include specific reference to the Biosafety Protocol in the Strategic Plan for similar reasons and also because the Protocol is a separate legal instrument to the Convention, conceivably with a different membership. On entry into force the Protocol will be subject to the decisions of countries party to it. Ultimate success in achieving the Protocol's objectives will fall to those Parties and not to members of the Convention.

A specific concern that Australia has with the draft text in square brackets relating to the Protocol, 1/ is that it implies that the worldwide application of the Biosafety Protocol is the only means to achieve the safe transboundary movement of LMOs and therefore achieve protection of biodiversity. Many countries, however, have advanced domestic regulatory systems, and international agreements such as the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (SPS) also provide protection for plant and animal health.

EUROPEAN UNION

[21 JANUARY 2002]
[ORIGINAL: ENGLISH]

The Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Biodiversity is an essential tool for guiding the work of the Convention.

The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to support and facilitate effective implementation of the Convention by the Parties through their national strategies and action plans by providing a framework and operational guidance for the implementation of the work programmes under the Convention.

1/ "Living modified organisms that may have an adverse effect of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account human health, are transferred, handled, and used in a safe manner through the full and world wide application of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety" (UNEP/CBD/MSP/L.2).

The Cartagena Protocol is an important feature of the Convention on Biological Diversity. As such the European Union strongly believes that the Strategic Plan should include the Protocol within its ambit and that certain goals within the Strategic Plan should relate specifically to the Protocol. In particular, the operational goals of the Convention should ensure that LMOs that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, are transferred, handled and used in a safe manner through the full and worldwide application of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Moreover, a number of horizontal elements in the draft Strategic Plan also concern the implementation of the Protocol (e.g., financial resources, capacity-building, technology transfer).

The Strategic Plan should also provide mechanisms for the Convention to show leadership in coordination and in strengthening cooperation with other organizations (e.g. the Codex Alimentarius, IPPC, OECD) in order to promote complementarity and synergy and to avoid duplication. In this regard, effective international cooperation to ensure that the Cartagena Protocol becomes fully operational should be one of the elements of the Strategic Plan, in line with Articles 5 and 6(b) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and Article 29, paragraph 4, of the Protocol and parallel to the ongoing international environmental processes, such as International Environmental Governance and the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

SLOVENIA

[18 JANUARY 2002]
[ORIGINAL: ENGLISH]

Since biosafety is one of the operational goals of the Convention, the Strategic Plan should reflect the aims of Parties with respect to the Protocol. Therewith the Plan shall provide several operational goals for providing such input and their timing. Addressing to the above, certain goals can be supported by a number of action plans contain expected products, actors carrying out the activities and cooperation, mechanisms used to realize activities, human resource, and other capacity requirements such as financial.
