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7 November 2001

NOTIFICATION TO ORGANIZATIONS

**Recommendations from the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee
for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP) requesting action from relevant
organizations**

Madam/Sir,

During its second meeting held from 1 to 5 October 2001 in Nairobi, Kenya, the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP) adopted the following recommendations requesting action from organizations on a number of issues that were for consideration by the meeting.

Please find attached herewith a summary of requests and recommendations of relevance to your organization for each of them.

In order to allow the Secretariat to report to the Committee at its next meeting, or to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, as the case may be, scheduled to take place from 22 to 26 April 2002, I would appreciate it if you could keep us updated on the actions undertaken by your organization for the implementation of the above recommendations, and if you could forward to our Secretariat, by 15 January 2002, views on issues addressed by the ICCP that are of relevance to your organization.

I also take this opportunity to thank you again for the support your organization has provided so far to the work of the ICCP and I look forward to our continued cooperation.

Accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: Relevant Organizations

Enclosure



ATTACHMENT

ACTION TO BE TAKEN INTER-SESSIONALLY BY ORGANIZATIONS

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Item 4.1: Liability and redress

2. *Requests* Parties, Governments and relevant international organizations to provide the Executive Secretary with information on national, regional and international measures and agreements in the field of liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movements of living modified organisms by no later than three months prior to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;

Item 4.8.2: Information-sharing

10. Invites any international organization, as appropriate:

(a) To make available to the Executive Secretary, as soon as possible, harmonized unique identification systems in relation to databases on living modified organisms;

(b) To facilitate the inclusion of relevant information on living modified organisms, including information from countries that may not be members of such organizations, in their own databases or in the pilot phase of the Biosafety Clearing-House;

11. *Recalls* the request made at its first meeting for the Executive Secretary to commission an independent and transparent review of the pilot phase of the biosafety clearing-house, utilizing feedback from the countries and indicators to measure success against the objectives of the pilot phase, and *recommends* that such review be undertaken prior to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Item 4.8.3: Capacity-building

4. *Invites* Parties, Governments, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector and scientific organizations and other relevant bodies to start implementing the Action Plan, taking into account the roles of different entities in facilitating capacity-building;

Annex

ACTION PLAN FOR BUILDING CAPACITIES FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

1. *Objective of the Action Plan*

1. The objective of this Action Plan is to facilitate and support the development and strengthening of capacities for the ratification and effective implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at the national, sub regional, regional and global levels in a timely manner. In this regard, the provision of financial, technical and technological support to developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing states among them, as well as countries with economies in transition, taking into account also countries that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, is essential.

2. To achieve the objective, this action plan aims at identifying country needs, priorities, and mechanisms of implementation and sources of funding.

2. *Key elements requiring concrete action*

3. The following key elements are meant to be considered in a flexible manner, based on a demand-driven approach, taking into account the different situations, capabilities and stages of development of each country.

- (a). Institutional capacity-building:
 - (i) Legislative and regulatory framework;
 - (ii) Administrative framework;
 - (iii) Technical, scientific and telecommunications infrastructures;
 - (iv) Funding and resource management;
 - (v) Mechanisms for follow-up, monitoring and assessment;
- (b) Human-resources development and training;
- (c) Risk assessment and other scientific and technical expertise;
- (d) Risk management;
- (e) Awareness, participation and education at all levels including for decision makers, stakeholders and general public;
- (f) Information exchange and data management including full participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House;
- (g) Scientific, technical and institutional collaboration at sub regional, regional and international levels;
- (h) Technology transfer;
- (i) Identification.

3. *Processes/steps*

4. The following processes/steps should be undertaken within appropriate timeframes:

- (a) Identification of capacity needs, including the needs that are not covered prior to the second meeting of ICCP;
- (b) Prioritization of the key elements by each country prior to the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;
- (c) Sequencing of actions, including timelines for the operation of capacity-building prior to first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;

(d) Identification of the coverage and gaps in capacity-building initiatives and resources that could support the ratification and implementation, prior to first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, from the following:

- (i) Global Environment Facility (GEF);
- (ii) Multilateral agencies;
- (iii) Other international sources;
- (iv) Bilateral sources;
- (v) Other stakeholders;
- (vi) National sources;

(e) Enhancing the effectiveness and adequacy of financial resources to be provided by multilateral and bilateral donors and other donors to developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, as well as countries with economies in transition taking into account also countries that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity;

- (f) Enhancing synergies and coordination of capacity-building initiatives;
- (g) Development of indicators for evaluating capacity-building measures.

4. Implementation

5. The activities hereunder are not listed in any order of priority:

4.1 National level

- (a) Development of national regulatory frameworks on biosafety;
- (b) Development and/or strengthening of institutional, administrative, financial and technical capacities, including the designation of national focal points and competent national authorities;
- (c) Establishment of a mechanism to inform all stakeholders;
- (d) Appropriate participation of all relevant stakeholders;
- (e) A mechanism for handling requests or notifications, including risk assessment and decision-making, as well as public information and participation;
- (f) Mechanisms for monitoring and compliance;
- (g) A short- and long-term assessment for internal and external funding;

4.2 Subregional and regional levels

- (a) Regional and subregional collaborative arrangements
- (b) Regional and subregional advisory mechanisms

- (c) Regional and subregional centres of excellence and training
- (d) Regional and subregional website and database
- (e) Mechanisms for regional and subregional coordination and harmonization of regulatory frameworks, where appropriate.

4.3 *International level*

- (a) Effective functioning of the Biosafety Clearing-House;
- (b) Development/updating of international guidance (IUCN, UNEP, FAO etc.);
- (c) Strengthening South-South cooperation;
- (d) Development and effective use of the roster of experts
- (e) Regular review and provision of further guidance by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

5. *Monitoring and coordination*

6. Because of the multitude of different actors undertaking different capacity building initiatives, mutual information, coordination and regular monitoring will be promoted in order to avoid duplications and to identify gaps. This exercise will lead to a focus of capacity building on biosafety, ratification, and implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The Secretariat and the Biosafety Clearing-House will be actively involved in the process.

7. The Secretariat will prepare, on the basis of Governments' submissions, a report on the steps taken by countries, multilateral/bilateral and other international sources, towards implementation of the Action Plan and submit a report to the Conference of the Parties servicing as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol so that it identifies whether the actions listed under section 4 have been carried out successfully and effectively.

Appendix

POSSIBLE SEQUENCE OF ACTIONS

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recognizing that the sequence of action necessary to ratify and implement the Protocol is to be decided by Parties according to their national needs,

Cognizant of the urgent need to build capacities in developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, as well as countries with economies in transition,

Building on the identified elements in the Action Plan and without prejudice to the timeframes indicated therein,

As an aid to assist countries to establish national priorities and to facilitate regional and sub-regional activities the following sequence of actions based on experience and past practice is proposed for consideration.

Possible sequencing of activities identified in the Action Plan

Each activity has associated with it specific objectives/tasks identified in the Indicative Framework and associated documents which will facilitate priority setting by countries and enable the establishment of a timetable for capacity development. This sequence does not establish priorities of action to be taken by countries.

A. National level

1. Assessment of effectiveness and adequacy of existing capacity.
2. Assessment of the short- and long-term requirements for internal and external funding.
3. Development of timelines.
4. Development of national regulatory frameworks on biosafety.
5. Development and/or strengthening of institutional, administrative, financial and technical capacities, including the designation of national focal points and competent authorities.
6. A mechanism for handling requests or notifications, including risk assessment and decision-making, as well as public information and participation.
7. Mechanisms for monitoring and compliance.
8. Establishment of a mechanism to inform all stakeholders.
9. Appropriate participation of all relevant stakeholders.

B. Regional and subregional levels

1. Assessment of national, bilateral and multilateral funding.
2. Regional website and database.
3. Mechanisms for regional and sub regional coordination and harmonization of regulatory frameworks, where appropriate.
4. Regional and subregional collaborative arrangements.
5. Regional and subregional advisory mechanisms.
6. Regional and subregional centres of excellence and training.

C. International level

1. Effective functioning of the Biosafety Clearing-House.

2. Enhancing the effectiveness and adequacy and coordination of financial resources to be provided by multilateral and bilateral donors and other donors to developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, as well as countries with economies in transition.
3. Development and effective use of the roster of experts.
4. Enhancing synergies and coordination of capacity-building initiatives.
5. Strengthening South-South cooperation.
6. Development/updating of international guidance (IUCN, UNEP, FAO etc.).
7. Regular review and provision of further guidance by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

Item 4.8.4: Handling, packaging, transport and identification

I. Paragraphs 2(b) and 2(c) of Article 18

1. *Invites* the Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods of the United Nations, the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Codex Alimentarius Commission and other relevant international organizations to provide advice, in writing to the Executive Secretary, on their ability to assist Parties to meet the requirements of Article 18 of the Biosafety Protocol, and on their capacity to adjust their systems should adjustment be necessary;

II. Paragraph 2(a) of Article 18 :

4. *Requests* Parties, Governments and relevant international organizations to provide any views as well as relevant information to the Executive Secretary regarding:

(a) The appropriate implementation of the requirement contained in the first sentence of Article 18, paragraph 2 (a), by the time of entry into force of the Protocol;

(b) The requirements of each element of paragraph 2 (a) of Article 18 of the Protocol;