



Ref.: SCBD/BS/CS/jh

6 June 2002

NOTIFICATION

Report and Recommendations from the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP) requesting action from Governments

Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to convey herewith the report of the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (document UNEP/CBD/ICCP/3/10) held from 22 to 26 April 2002 in The Hague, The Netherlands. You can find it also on the website of the Secretariat at <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.asp?wg=ICCP-03>

The Intergovernmental Committee adopted a number of recommendations requesting action from Parties and Governments on a number of issues that were for consideration by the meeting. Please find attached herewith a summary list of the requests and recommendations addressed to Governments together with the submission dates for each of them. Please refer to the report, for the full text of the requests and recommendations. Kindly note that the ICCP urged Governments to submit appropriate information in time to allow for implementation of the work plan. In order to facilitate timely preparations of background documentation for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, it will be appreciated if the appropriate information is submitted no later than 5 months before the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.

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

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

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: ICCP National Focal Points
CBD National Focal Points (where ICCP focal points have not yet been designated)

Enclosures



ATTACHMENT 1
SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES FOR SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION TO THE SECRETARIAT
(as derived from the annex to UNEP/CBD/ICCP/3/10)

Agenda Item	Requested information	Date of submission
4.1.1 Liability and Redress	Invitation to Parties, Governments and relevant international organizations that had not provided the Executive Secretary with information on national, regional and international agreements in the field of liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movements of LMOs before the third meeting of the ICCP, to do so	No later than 5 months prior to COP/MOP1
	Invitation to Parties, Governments and relevant international organizations to submit to the Executive Secretary information or initial understandings on the basis of the questionnaire annexed to recommendation 3/1	No later than 5 months prior to COP/MOP1
	Invitation to Parties and Governments to submit to the Executive Secretary their views on terms of reference for an ad hoc group of legal and technical experts	No later than 5 months prior to COP/MOP1
4.1.2 Compliance	Parties and Governments to submit their views or understandings with respect to the contents that are in square brackets in the compliance text	No later than 5 months prior to COP/MOP1
4.1.3 Information Sharing	Governments to participate in the development of the pilot phase by registering and retrieving information	Ongoing, as soon as possible
	Governments to submit views on the transition between the pilot phase and the fully operational and functional BCH	No later than 5 months prior to COP/MOP1
	Invitation to developed country Governments and other donors to provide financial support to ensure that, where appropriate, these recommendations and those contained in the third note can be implemented, including the continuing development of regional activities and of essential tools and required equipment, such as the tool-kit and the templates to assist countries to develop their own national databases that are interoperable with the Biosafety Clearing-House	As soon as possible
4.1.4 Capacity-building (Roster of experts)	Governments to update, or to request their nominated experts to update, the information in the roster	As soon as possible but no later than 5 months prior to COP/MOP-1
	Governments that have not yet done so to nominate experts, preferably before MOP-1	As soon as possible but no later than 5 months prior to COP/MOP-1
	Parties to use the interim guidelines for the pilot phase of the fund	Ongoing
	Governments and other donors to make contributions to the pilot phase of the fund	As soon as possible
4.1.4 Capacity-building	Invitation to developed country Parties to make voluntary financial contributions to the Secretariat to facilitate implementation of the Coordination Mechanism	As soon as possible
	Registration of information on biosafety capacity-building initiatives in the BCH, including reports on the achievements, lessons learned and opportunities for cooperation	Ongoing
	Addressing the gaps in implementation of the priority elements of the Action Plan and the geographic coverage of capacity-building initiatives	Ongoing
	Provision of assistance to developing countries and Parties with economies in transition, to organize workshops on capacity-building	As soon as possible
	Using, as appropriate, the implementation toolkit	Ongoing
	Submission of views and comments to the Executive Secretary on the preliminary set of indicators for monitoring implementation of the Action Plan	No later than 5 months prior to COP/MOP1

4.1.5 Handling, transport, packaging and identification	Invitation to closely consider, based on the report and recommendations of the meeting of technical experts held from 18 to 20 March 2002 in Montreal, the issues arisen in connection with the requirements of paragraph 2(a) of Article 18 and that remained difficult to resolve, and facilitate their resolution with a view to ensure the timely and effective implementation of the requirements contained in the first sentence of paragraph 2(a) of Article 18.	No later than 5 months prior to COP/MOP1
	Invitation to examine unique identification systems such as the one being developed by the OECD with a view to considering their applicability to the requirements of identification of living modified organisms, and their linkage to the Biosafety-Clearing House	No later than 5 months prior to COP/MOP1
4.1.6 Monitoring and reporting	Governments to submit comments on the draft format	No later than 5 months prior to COP/MOP1
4.1.7 Consideration of other issues for the effective implementation of the Protocol	Invitation to provide views on operational experience regarding a need for criteria for categorization of LMOs according to their intended use, gained following entry into force of the Protocol, including through the monitoring and reporting process under Article 33	As soon as possible if and where available
	Request to further provide the Executive Secretary with views on items to be included in a medium term programme of work for consideration at the first meeting of the Parties	No later than 5 months prior to COP/MOP1
	Call to deposit instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession in respect of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.	As soon as possible
	Call to States that are not Parties to the Convention to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Convention, as it is a pre-requisite for them to be able to become Parties to the Protocol.	As soon as possible
	Invitation to non-Parties, when the Protocol enters into force, to nominate contact points for the purpose of the Biosafety Protocol.	As soon as possible