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13 April 2004

NOTIFICATION

Report and Decisions of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP/1) requesting action from Governments

Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to convey herewith the report of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/1/15) held from 23 to 27 February 2004 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. You can find it also on the website of the Secretariat at <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=MOP-01>.

The Meeting of the Parties adopted a number of decisions 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 decisions 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 decisions. Kindly note that the MOP 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 second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, it would be appreciated if the appropriate information is submitted no later than 6 months before the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol envisaged to take place in May/June 2005.

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

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

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) National Focal Points
CBD National Focal Points (where CPB 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 decisions of COP-MOP/1 contained in annex I to UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/1/15)

Agenda Item	Requested information	Date of submission
6.2 Information-Sharing (Article 20, para. 4) Decision BS-I/3	<i>Encourages</i> Parties, governments and other users to develop national, regional, sub-regional and institutional nodes that are interlinked with the Central Portal (decision includes list of priorities)	On-going
	<i>Urges</i> all Parties, governments and other users to provide relevant information to the Biosafety Clearing-House as soon as possible, including information pertaining to decisions on the release or import of LMOs taken prior to entry into force of the Protocol	As soon as possible
	<i>Calls upon</i> each Party (and invites Governments) to designate an appropriate national focal point for the Biosafety Clearing-House	As soon as possible
	<i>Calls upon</i> the international community to make additional voluntary contributions to meet the capacity-building needs of countries with respect to the implementation of national components of the Biosafety Clearing-House	On-going
	<i>Encourages</i> Parties and other Governments to also provide courtesy translations of information in the Biosafety Clearing-House into one or more languages that are commonly used internationally, in order to minimize the burden of translation	On-going
6.3 Capacity-building (Article 22 and Article 28, paragraph 3) Decision BS-I/5	<i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments, international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, private sector and scientific organizations and other relevant bodies to support the effective implementation of the Action Plan, taking into account the potential roles as contained in annex II to the present decision, of different entities in facilitating capacity-building, and recognizing the need for synergies between the capacity-building activities of the private sector and civil society and national programmes and priorities	On-going
	<i>Welcomes</i> the progress made in implementing the Action Plan, summarized in the note by the Executive Secretary on capacity-building (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/1/6), and <i>invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to take further measures towards its effective implementation;	On-going
	<i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to take collaborative actions to address the gaps in the implementation of the Action Plan identified in the initial analysis contained in the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/1/6)	On-going
	<i>Invites</i> Parties and other Governments that have not yet submitted their capacity-building needs and priorities to the Biosafety Clearing-House to do so as soon as possible	On-going
	<i>Urges</i> Parties and other governments to review their needs and priorities periodically and update their records in the Biosafety Clearing-House accordingly	On-going
	<i>Encourages</i> Parties and other Governments to develop national strategic plans and programmes to address their identified needs and priorities	On-going

Agenda Item	Requested information	Date of submission
	<i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations in a position to provide assistance to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition to, as an initial step, review the information on the needs and priorities submitted by those countries to the Biosafety Clearing-House when developing assistance programmes	On-going
	<i>Urges</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to register in the Biosafety Clearing-House relevant information on their existing biosafety capacity-building initiatives, including reports on the achievements, lessons learned and opportunities for cooperation as well as suggestions on how to enhance capacity building for the effective implementation of the Protocol;	On-going
	<i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and organizations to use, as appropriate, the implementation tool kit contained in annex III to the present decision	On-going
	<i>Invites</i> developed country Parties, Governments, the Global Environment Facility, other donor agencies and relevant organizations to provide financial support and other assistance to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, including countries amongst these that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, to develop and implement capacity-building activities, including organization of national, regional and inter-regional capacity building workshops and preparatory meetings.	On-going
	<i>Invites also</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to provide financial contributions and other support to facilitate the implementation of the Coordination Mechanism	On-going
	<i>Urges</i> Parties, Governments and relevant organizations to register and update information on their biosafety capacity-building activities in the Biosafety Clearing-House, including capacity-building projects, opportunities, and other relevant information;	On-going
	<i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to actively participate in and to support the implementation of the Coordination Mechanism and to share their expertise and resource materials through the Mechanism	On-going
	<i>Urges</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to establish or strengthen, as appropriate, corresponding national or regional-level coordination mechanism in order to promote synergies between existing capacity-building initiatives	On-going
	<i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to use, as appropriate, the indicators referred to in the paragraph 26 above to monitor their biosafety capacity-building initiatives being implemented in support of the Action Plan;	On-going
	<i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to submit to the Executive Secretary, and to share through the Biosafety Clearing-House, their experience in using the preliminary set of indicators	At least 6 months before MOP-4

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6.3 Capacity-building (Roster of experts) Decision BS-I/4	<i>Invites</i> Parties to use the interim guidelines for the roster (paragraph 2)	On-going
	<i>Urges</i> Governments to update, or to request their nominated experts to update, the information in the roster (paragraph 4)	On-going
	<i>Urges</i> Governments that have not yet done so to nominate experts (paragraph 3)	On-going
	<i>Invites</i> Parties to use the interim guidelines for the pilot phase of the fund (paragraph 8)	On-going
	<i>Urges</i> Governments and other donors to make contributions to the pilot phase of the fund (paragraph 11)	On-going
6.4 Handling, transport, packaging and identification (Article 18) Decision BS-I/6	<p><i>Requests</i> Parties to the Protocol, other Governments and relevant international organizations to provide to the Executive Secretary by 30 June 2004:</p> <p>a) Information on their experience, if any, in the implementation of the requirements of the first sentence of paragraph 2 (a) of Article 18; and</p> <p>b) Their views regarding the detailed requirements referred to in the second sentence of paragraph 2 (a) of Article 18, including specification of the identity of the LMOs that are intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (whether the extent of information should include taxonomic name, the gene modifications inserted and traits or genes changed); threshold levels in the case of co-mingling of LMOs with non-LMOs, and possible linkages of the issue with Article 17 of the Protocol; the “may contain” language; and any unique identification;</p> <p>c) Their experiences with the use of existing unique identification systems under the Protocol, such as the OECD Unique Identifier for Transgenic Plants;</p>	By 30 June 2004
	<i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations to make available to the Executive Secretary, not later than six months prior to the date of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, information regarding their experience, if any, in the implementation of the requirements of paragraphs 2 (b) and 2 (c) of Article 18;	6 months prior to MOP-2 (i.e. December 2004)
	<i>Encourages</i> the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and other organizations involved in the development of unique identification systems for LMOs to initiate or enhance their activities towards the development of a harmonized system of unique identifiers for genetically modified micro-organisms and animals.	On-going
6.6 Liability and redress (Article 27) Decision BS-I/8	<i>Nominate</i> experts to participate in a Technical Group of Experts on liability and redress to undertake preparatory work for the first meeting of the Open-Ended Ad Hoc Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Liability and Redress	No later than two months before the meeting of the Technical Group of Experts (date of meeting will be specified in a further notification from the Executive Secretary in due course)
	<i>Submit</i> views on the questionnaire contained in the annex to recommendation 3/1 of ICCP (UNEP/CBD/ICCP/3/10)	No later than three months before the meeting of the Technical Group of Experts (date of meeting will be specified in a further notification from the Executive Secretary in due course)

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6.7 Monitoring and reporting (Article 33) Decision BS-I/9	<i>Requests</i> Parties to submit interim reports by 11 September 2005	By 11 September 2005
6.8 Secretariat (e.g. Article 31, para. 3) Decision BS-I/10	<i>Invites</i> all Parties to the Protocol to note that contributions to the core budget (BYP Trust Fund) are due on 1 January of the year in which these contributions have been budgeted for, and to pay them promptly, and <i>urges</i> Parties in a position to do so, to pay by 15 November of the year 2004 for the calendar year 2005 and by 15 November 2005 for the calendar year 2006 the contributions required to finance the expenditures approved under paragraph 3 above, as offset by the amount in paragraph 1 above, and in this regard requests that Parties be notified of the amount of their contributions by 15 October of the year preceding the year in which the contributions are due;	Preferably by 15 November 2004 for contributions to the budget for calendar year 2005, and 15 November 2005 for contributions to the budget for calendar year 2006
	<i>Urges</i> all Parties and States not Parties to the Protocol, as well as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other sources, to contribute to the trust funds of the Cartagena Protocol;	Preferably by 15 November 2004 for contributions for calendar year 2005, and 15 November 2005 for contributions for calendar year 2006
6.10 Consideration of other issues for the effective implementation of the Protocol (e.g. Article 29, para. 4) Decision BS-I/11	<i>Invites</i> Parties and other governments to submit views to ES on what other scientific and technical issues may need to be addressed as a matter of priority	6 months prior to MOP-2 (i.e. by December 2004)
	<i>Invites</i> Parties and other governments to provide information to the ES regarding existing guidance materials regarding risk assessment and risk management of LMOs	6 months prior to MOP-2 (i.e. by December 2004)