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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 relevant organizations

Madam/Sir,

During its first meeting, held from 23 to 27 February 2004 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the Meeting of the Parties adopted a number of decisions requesting action from relevant organizations 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 relevant organizations together with the submission dates for each of them. Please refer to the report, for the full text of the requests and decisions.

In order to allow the Secretariat to report to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, I would appreciate it if you could keep us updated on the actions undertaken by your organization for the implementation of the relevant recommendations, and if you could forward to our Secretariat, views on issues addressed by MOP that are of relevance to your organization, at the earliest opportunity but 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 again for the support your organization has provided so far to the work of Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and I look forward to your continued cooperation.

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

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: Relevant Organizations

Enclosures



ATTACHMENT

ACTION TO BE TAKEN INTER-SESSIONALLY BY ORGANIZATIONS

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Item 6.2 Information-Sharing (Article 20, para. 4) (Decision BS-I/3)

1. *Approves* the transition of the pilot phase of the Biosafety Clearing-House to the fully operational phase;
2. *Adopts* the modalities of operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House that are contained in the annex to this decision;
5. *Urges* 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 living modified organisms taken prior to entry into force of the Protocol;
8. In this regard, *invites* Governments, organizations and other users interested in entering into a partnership with the Biosafety Clearing-House to nominate an appropriate focal point to carry out this role;

Annex, Section F

6. Relevant international, regional, sub-regional and national organizations and entities willing to offer their cooperation as active partners in the operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House shall follow specific interoperability guidelines for information-sharing, to be prepared by the Secretariat for this purpose. Where partner institutions are hosting information that is required by the Protocol to be made available to the Biosafety Clearing-House, the following minimum standards will apply:

- (a) Nomination of an institutional focal point in the partner organization, responsible for liaison with the Secretariat;
- (b) Written confirmation by the relevant Party or government that responsibility for provision of this information has been conveyed to the institution in question;
- (c) Guaranteed maintenance of their information-exchange system, as well as provision of 24 hour/7 day a week availability and open access to the required information;
- (d) If these standards cannot be maintained, or if a partner does not wish to continue to provide information to the Biosafety Clearing-House, all data or information subject to this partnership shall be transferred to the central databases maintained by the Secretariat.

Item 6.3 Capacity-building (Article 22 and Article 28, paragraph 3) (Decision BS-I/5)

2. *Invites* 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.

3. *Welcomes* 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 *invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to take further measures towards its effective implementation;
4. *Takes note* of the gaps in the implementation of the Action Plan identified in the initial analysis in the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/1/6), and *invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to take collaborative actions to address those gaps;
6. *Invites* 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;
9. *Invites* 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;
10. *Urges* 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;
11. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and organizations to use, as appropriate, the implementation tool kit contained in annex III to the present decision;
12. *Invites* 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;
19. *Invites also* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to provide financial contributions and other support to facilitate the implementation of the Coordination Mechanism;
20. *Urges* 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;
22. *Invites* 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;
23. *Urges* 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;
27. *Invites* 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;

28. *Invites* 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;

Item 6.4 Handling, transport, packaging and identification (Article 18) (Decision BS-I/6)

Section A

7. *Requests* Parties to the Protocol, other Governments and relevant international organizations to provide to the Executive Secretary by 30 June 2004:

(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

(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 living modified organisms 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 living modified organisms with non-LMOs, and possible linkages of the issue with Article 17 of the Protocol; the “may contain” language; and any unique identification;

(c) Their experiences with the use of existing unique identification systems under the Protocol, such as the Unique Identifier for Transgenic Plants of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development;

Annex, 3rd preambular paragraph

Understanding that composition of the open-ended technical expert group shall be designed for effective participation, inclusiveness, transparency, and technical expertise relevant to the issues specified in this terms of reference, and that it will be composed of experts, nominated by Parties to the Protocol and other Governments and relevant international organizations, with technical expertise relevant to the issues specified in the terms of reference,

Annex, section B

4. *Invites* 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;

Annex, section C

3. *Encourages* the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and other organizations involved in the development of unique identification systems for living modified organisms to initiate or enhance their activities towards the development of a harmonized system of unique identifiers for genetically modified micro-organisms and animals.

Item 6.6 Liability and redress (Article 27) (Decision BS-I/8)

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Bureau, to convene a Technical Group of Experts on Liability and Redress composed of experts nominated by Parties to the Protocol and based on a fair and equitable geographical representation 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.

5. *Invites* Parties, Governments and international organizations and relevant stakeholders that have not done so to submit their views to the Executive Secretary on the questionnaire contained in the annex to recommendation 3/1 of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (UNEP/CBD/ICCP3/10) no later than three months prior to the meeting of the Technical Group of Experts referred to in paragraph 4 above, and *requests* the Secretariat to compile the views submitted

including those submitted for the purpose of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol contained in document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/1/INF/6, and prepare a synthesis report of the submissions for consideration at that meeting.

Item 6.8 Secretariat (e.g. Article 31, para. 3) (Decision BS-I/10)

11. *Urges* 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;

Item 6.10 Consideration of other issues for the effective implementation of the Protocol (e.g. Article 29, para. 4) (Decision BS-I/11)

4. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, and relevant international organizations to submit their views to the Executive Secretary, not later than six months prior to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, on what other scientific and technical issues may need to be addressed as a matter of priority in order to formulate common approaches towards these issues and to promote the effective implementation of the Protocol, for inclusion in a synthesis report to be considered by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to collect and collate existing guidance materials regarding risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms for consideration by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, and *invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations to provide relevant information to the Executive Secretary, not later than six months prior to the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, for inclusion in this report.