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4 July 2005

NOTIFICATION

Report and Decisions of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP/2) requesting action from relevant organizations

Madam/Sir,

At its second meeting, held from 30 May to 3 June 2005 in Montreal, Canada, the COP-MOP 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 where appropriate. Please refer to the report, for the full text of the requests and decisions.

In order to allow the Secretariat to report to the third 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 COP-MOP that are of relevance to your organization, at the earliest opportunity but no later than 6 months before its third meeting envisaged to take place in March 2006.

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 5 Operation and activities of the BCH (Article 20, para. 4) (Decision BS-II/2)

3. Parties, governments and other users are *encouraged* to continue to use the Management Centre to provide information, and/or to develop national, regional, sub-regional and institutional nodes that are interlinked and interoperable with the Central Portal
4. *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 LMOs and risk assessments taken prior to entry into force of the Protocol and to undertake regular review of the information they have previously made available
5. *Invites* Parties, Governments and other users to identify constraints on making information available in a timely manner, and to implement strategies to overcome these difficulties.
6. *Invites* Parties, Governments and international organizations to make relevant biosafety information available through the Biosafety Information Resource Centre
8. *Invites* donor Governments and organizations to assist developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, as well as countries that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, to access and use the Biosafety Clearing-House, particularly in the areas of improved capacity for data collection and data management at a national level, strengthening of core human resources at a national level, and the establishment of appropriate infrastructure to share information at both national, regional and international levels

Item 6 Capacity-building (Article 22 and Article 28, paragraph 3) (Decision BS-II/3)

2. *Urges* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to share their information through the Coordination Mechanism and the Biosafety Clearing-House and to ensure reliable quality of that information
3. *Invites* regional and subregional institutions to contribute to capacity-building in biosafety and to actively participate in the Coordination Mechanism
7. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit for the compendium information on existing biosafety training courses and to use the compendium to identify and take advantage of available training and education opportunities in biosafety
9. *Invites* developed country Parties, other developed States, the Global Environment Facility and relevant organizations to:
 - (a) Provide financial resources and other support for training and education in biosafety, including the provision of scholarships and fellowships for students from developing countries, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition as well as support for “training-of-trainers” programmes and “re-training” courses;
 - (b) Assist countries to incorporate specific components on training and education in their capacity-building project proposals, for example for the implementation of the national biosafety frameworks.

10. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to:
 - (a) Endeavour to create opportunities and career paths for local professionals trained in biosafety, especially young graduates, in order for them to utilize their skills;
 - (b) Actively involve academic and training institutions in relevant national and international biosafety processes, including the development and implementation of national biosafety frameworks.
- 11 *Invites* institutions offering biosafety training and education courses to:
 - (a) Regularly update information in the compendium regarding their courses;
 - (b) Take into account the training needs of countries in order to develop appropriate (demand-driven) training programmes, including those targeted for specific audiences or addressing specific needs;
 - (c) Participate proactively in relevant biosafety processes at the national, regional and international levels in order to be acquainted with the emerging issues, needs and challenges in biosafety;
 - (d) Establish collaborative partnerships with other institutions, especially those in developing countries, with a view to transferring skills, sharing experience and course materials as well as fostering harmonization and mutual recognition of the course offerings;
 - (e) Develop and facilitate distance-learning tools, such as online courses
- 14 *Invites* developed country Parties, Governments and relevant organizations to consider the information contained in the report in the development of their assistance programmes;
- 16 *Invites* developed countries and relevant international organizations to provide support to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing states among them, including countries among them that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, as well as Parties with economies in transition, in the field of capacity-building, in particular for the development and implementation of national biosafety frameworks
17. *Further invites* organizations and initiatives involved in biosafety capacity-building which have in-country infrastructure, such as GEF-funded biosafety projects, to assist countries in assessing and submitting their capacity-building needs and priorities to the Biosafety Clearing-House
21. *Urges* Parties and other Governments and relevant organizations to promote regional and subregional initiatives and approaches to address common needs and priorities and encourages them to make effective use of locally existing facilities and expertise, including through exchange of experts
22. *Invites* donor countries and relevant organizations to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition, including countries amongst these that are centres of origin and centres of genetic diversity, to build capacity for conducting independent biosafety-related research
23. *Further invites* donor countries and organizations supporting capacity-building activities to:
 - (a) Consider simplifying the procedures for making resources available, and harmonize them to the extent possible, in order to improve access to resources for capacity-building by recipient countries;
 - (b) Provide training in project-proposal development to interested recipient countries;
 - (c) Consider requiring that countries seeking support for capacity-building initiatives provide information on other related ongoing initiatives in order to minimize duplication of capacity-building assistance
25. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit to the Secretariat, no later than three months prior to its third meeting, progress reports on their initiatives contributing to the implementation of the Action Plan, including their effectiveness, as well as views and suggestions on

desired revisions to the Action Plan, taking into account the terms of reference for the review mentioned above

27 *Invites* relevant organizations and initiatives which have in-country contacts and infrastructure, such as the GEF biosafety-related projects, to assist, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary, countries in responding to the questionnaire

Item 7 Financial Mechanism (Decision BS-II/5)

1. *Encourages* all donors and their agencies as well as the Global Environment Facility to simplify, to the extent possible, their project cycle requirements in order to expedite access, by developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States among them, and the Parties with economies in transition, to the financial resources needed to assist the implementation of the Protocol

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility and with the Coordination Mechanism for the implementation of the Action Plan for Building Capacities for the Effective Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to assess status of funding and promote coordination, coherence and synergies in financing for biosafety activities among donors and their agencies in order to facilitate the avoidance of duplication of work, identify gaps in funding activities and possible options to address them

Item 9 Budget (Decision BS-II/7)

4. *Notes* with concern the shortfalls in contributions for supporting approved activities and participation of developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in meetings organized under the Protocol, and 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 Special Voluntary Trust Funds (BH and BI) of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to enable the Secretariat to implement approved activities in a timely manner

Item 11 Risk Assessment and Risk Management (Decision BS-II/9)

1. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to contribute further to the Biosafety Information Resource Centre on the Biosafety Clearing-House, by registering additional guidance materials and other scientific and technical information

Item 13 Liability and redress (Article 27) (Decision BS-II/11)

2. *Calls upon* Parties, other Governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide financial resources for the organization of the meetings of the Working Group envisaged in the indicative work plan contained in decision BS-I/8

3. *Agrees* that the second meeting of the Working Group should be convened before the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol and *calls upon* Parties, other Governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so to provide the necessary financial resources to enable the participation of developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition as provided for in decision BS-I/10

Item 14 Socio-economic Considerations (Article 26, paragraph 2) (Decision BS-II/12)

2. *Urges* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to provide more emphasis to research on socio-economic impacts of living modified organisms and to allocate resources for that purpose

3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and organizations with research activities related to socio-economic impacts of living modified organisms arising from the impacts of these organisms on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, to share information, with other Parties, other

Governments, and other stakeholders through the Biosafety Clearing-House, on their research methods and results, both positive and negative

5. *Requests* Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations to provide to the Executive Secretary not later than six months prior to the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, their views and case-studies, where available, concerning socio-economic impacts of living modified organisms

Item 15 Public awareness and Participation (e.g. Article 23, para 1 (a)) (Decision BS-II/13)

4. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility, donors, other funding institutions and relevant international bodies to provide financial and other support to developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, as well as Parties with economies in transition for the public awareness, education and participation projects and activities concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms

5. *Further invites* Parties, other States, and relevant international bodies to share, through the Biosafety Information Resource Centre in the Biosafety Clearing-House, information, awareness materials and case-studies about their ongoing initiatives on public awareness, education and participation, including major accomplishments, success stories, best practices and lessons learned as well as limitations experienced

7. *Urges* Parties, other Government and relevant international bodies to develop and support subregional and regional public awareness and education initiatives concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, including through educational systems and regional centres

9. *Encourages* Parties, other States and relevant international bodies to make effective use of the tools and mechanisms established under the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) under the Convention on Biological Diversity

10. *Invites* Parties, other States and relevant international bodies to include in their programmes for implementing the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development specific activities related to promoting public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms in relation to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account also risks to human health

11. *Invites* Parties, other States and concerned relevant international bodies to explore and maximize opportunities for cooperation in the promotion of public awareness, education and participation concerning living modified organisms through the frameworks provided by related national and international instruments, in particular the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Item 16 Other Scientific and Technical Issues (Decision BS-II/14)

1. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations to submit views, not later than six months prior to the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, regarding clarification of the rights and/or obligations of transit States, particularly related to documentation, for inclusion in a synthesis report to be considered by the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol

2. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to share the results of public research related to biosafety through the Biosafety Information Resource Centre of the Biosafety Clearing-House
