



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Ref.: SCBD/BS/CG/jh/64396

8 July 2008

NOTIFICATION

Decisions of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP/4) requesting action from Parties and other Governments

Madam/Sir,

With reference to the notification issued on 26 June 2008, SCBD/BS/CG/jh/64305, informing Parties of the availability of the final report of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety held in Bonn, Germany, 12 to 16 May 2008 (document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/4/18) on the website of the Secretariat at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/bs/mop-04/official/mop-04-18-en.pdf>, I write to bring to your attention the relevant parts of the decisions that request direct action from Parties and other Governments, as part of the programme of work, over the next biennium.

The meeting adopted a number of decisions requesting action from Parties and other 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 Parties and other Governments together with the submission dates where appropriate. Please refer to the report, for the full text of the requests and decisions.

I would like to draw your attention in particular to those requests that call for the submission of certain information and/or views to the Secretariat in preparation for the fifth meeting of the COP-MOP. In order to facilitate timely preparations of background documentation, it would be appreciated if the appropriate information is submitted no later than 6 months before the fifth meeting of the COP-MOP, namely no later than 10 April 2010.

I also take this opportunity to thank you for the support your Government has provided to date 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.

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

To: Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB) National Focal Points
CBD National Focal Points (where CPB focal points have not yet been designated)



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Enclosures

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ATTACHMENT 1
SUMMARY OF REQUESTS AND DATES FOR SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION TO THE SECRETARIAT
(as derived from the decisions of COP-MOP/4 contained in annex I to UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/4/18)

Decision	Requested action/information	Date of submission (as appropriate)
Decision BS-IV/1 - Report of the Compliance Committee	<i>Reminds</i> each Party of its obligation to adopt appropriate domestic measures addressing illegal transboundary movements of living modified organisms and to report the occurrence of such movements to the Biosafety Clearing-House;	
	<i>Calls upon</i> each regional group to consider and apply mechanisms: (a) To ensure that nominees to the Compliance Committee are willing and able to attend and fully participate in the meetings of the Committee; and (b) That would best suit and enable them to replace members of the Compliance Committee who resign during an intersessional period or who are unable to complete their term of office in accordance with rule 10 of the rules of procedure of the Compliance Committee and to do so in an expeditious manner;	
	<i>Urges</i> Parties to renew efforts to facilitate agreement on rule 18 of the rules of procedure for the meetings of the Compliance Committee;	
	<i>Invites</i> Parties to submit to the Executive Secretary no later than six months prior to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol their views on how the supportive role of the Compliance Committee could be improved, and <i>requests</i> the Executive Secretary to compile the views and make them available to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.	10 April 2010
Decision BS-IV/2 – Operations and Activities of the Biosafety Clearing-House	<i>Reminds</i> all Parties of their obligations, and invites all other Governments, to submit to the Biosafety Clearing-House complete information pertaining to decisions regarding the first intentional transboundary movements of living modified organisms for intentional introduction into the environment and the risk assessments associated with such decisions;	
	<i>Urges</i> all Parties and invites all other Governments to provide relevant information to the Biosafety Clearing-House, including information pertaining to decisions regarding the release or import of living modified organisms and risk assessments taken prior to entry into force of the Protocol;	
	<i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and users of the Biosafety Clearing-House to continue to make relevant biosafety information and resources available through the Biosafety Information Resource Centre (BIRC);	
Decision BS-IV/3 - Capacity-Building	<i>Urges</i> Parties, other Governments, donors and relevant organizations to provide new and additional financial and technical support to developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition to address their capacity-building needs;	
	<i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to provide information on their capacity-building activities to the Secretariat and the Biosafety Clearing-House at least six months before the regular meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, in order to facilitate more comprehensive reporting on the implementation of the capacity-building Action Plan and the sharing of experiences in capacity-building activities;	10 April 2010

Decision	Requested action/information	Date of submission (as appropriate)
	<i>Welcomes</i> the offer of UNEP to undertake an expert review of capacity-building activities under GEF funding, in collaboration with GEF, its agencies and the Executive Secretary, with a view to assessing the effectiveness of various approaches to capacity-building and developing lessons learned and <i>invites</i> Parties, other Governments, donors and relevant organization to provide additional support to extend the review to non-GEF activities and submit the review to the BCH.	
	<i>Invites</i> Parties and other Governments to complete and return to the Secretariat the biosafety training needs assessment matrix developed by the second international meeting of academic institutions and organizations involved in biosafety education and training and disseminated by the Executive Secretary;	10 April 2010
	<i>Invites</i> relevant national authorities, in particular National Focal Points to the Protocol to collaborate with academic institutions and other relevant organizations in the development and/or expansion of biosafety academic programmes;	
	<i>Invites</i> developed country Parties, other Governments, GEF, bilateral and multi-lateral agencies to provide financial and other support to enable universities and relevant institutions to develop and/or expand existing biosafety academic programmes and provide scholarships to students from developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition;	
	<i>Invites</i> Parties other Governments and relevant organizations to share through BCH the existing academic and training materials;	
	<i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit to the Executive Secretary, at least six months before the sixth meeting of the Parties, information on their experiences with, and lessons learned from, the use of the revised set of indicators;	6 months prior to MOP/6
	<i>Invites also</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to take into account, when selecting or using indicators for monitoring their capacity-building initiatives, the experiences and lessons learned from relevant processes, including those described in the note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/4/4/Add.1);	
	<i>Invites</i> Parties and other Governments to undertake stocktaking assessments or compile information collected under relevant assessment processes to establish their capacity-building baselines and benchmarks and communicate this information to the Executive Secretary;	
Decision BS-IV/4 – Roster of Biosafety Experts	<i>Request</i> Parties and other Governments to make fresh nominations in accordance with the new criteria and minimum requirements, using the revised nomination form;	
	<i>Urges</i> Parties and other Governments to ensure that their nominees meet the criteria and minimum requirements and possess the highest professional qualities and expertise in the fields for which they are nominated and to verify that the information submitted on the nomination forms is complete and accurate before submitting it to the Secretariat;	
	<i>Requests</i> Parties and other Governments to keep the information on their nominated experts in the roster up-to-date and to undertake, or require the experts to undertake, a general review and update of their information every two years;	
	<i>Invites</i> developed country Parties and other donors to make contributions to the Voluntary Fund and <i>reminds</i> parties that without funds the roster cannot operate	

Decision	Requested action/information	Date of submission (as appropriate)
Decision BS-IV/8 – Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification of LMOs: Paragraphs 2(b and (c of Article 18	<i>Requests</i> Parties and <i>encourages</i> other Governments and relevant international organizations to continue to implement the requirements under paragraphs 2(b) and 2(c) of Article 18 and associated decisions by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;	
Decision BS-IV/9 – Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification of LMOs: Paragraph 2(a) of Article 18	<i>Notes</i> the important work that is being done by relevant international organizations such as the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the International Organization for Standardization and <i>encourages</i> Parties to participate in and share information with these and other relevant international standard-setting bodies, and utilize, as appropriate, criteria or methods for sampling and detection of living modified organisms published by them;	
	<i>Requests</i> Parties and encourages other Governments and relevant international organizations to ensure that information related to rules and standards on the sampling of living modified organisms and detection techniques, including experience with such techniques are made available via the Biosafety Clearing-House;	
	<i>Requests</i> Parties, and encourages other Governments, relevant international organizations as well as the Global Environment Facility, to cooperate with and support developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, in their efforts to build their capacities in the area of sampling and detection of living modified organisms, including the setting up of laboratory facilities and training of local regulatory and scientific personnel;	
	<i>Encourages</i> those in possession of reference materials to provide access for those agencies that may need such materials for the purpose of detection of living modified organisms.	
Decision BS-IV/10 – Handling, Transport, Packaging and Identification of LMOs: Paragraph 3 of Article 18	<i>Requests</i> Parties and <i>encourages</i> other Governments and international organizations to ensure that information related to standards on the identification, handling, packaging and transport of living modified organisms is available through the Biosafety Clearing-House;	
	<i>Encourages</i> Parties to participate in ongoing work on standards on handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms taking place in other relevant international organizations and, <i>decides</i> that if a gap in such standards has been identified, to consider the need for and modalities of developing the necessary standards, in particular by referring such gaps to other relevant international organizations;	
	<i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations to provide the Executive Secretary with guiding questions for this online conference and <i>requests</i> the Executive Secretary to finalise the list of questions in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.	
Decision BS-IV/11 – Risk Assessment and Risk Management	<i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit to the Executive Secretary, prior to the first meeting of the AHTEG, information relevant to the work of the AHTEG, particularly on existing guidance documents on risk assessment;	November 2008
	<i>Urges</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to make funds available to the Executive Secretary for the organization of the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group, prior to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;	November 2008

Decision	Requested action/information	Date of submission (as appropriate)
	<p><i>Requests</i> Parties and invites other Governments and relevant organizations to submit to the Executive Secretary, not later than three months prior to the first AHTEG meeting, scientifically sound information available at that time, on the identification of living modified organisms or specific traits that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health;</p> <p><i>Calls upon</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant donor organizations to make funds available to the Secretariat to support the training activities referred to in the above paragraphs.</p>	December 2008
Decision BS-IV/12 – Liability and Redress Under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	<i>Calls upon</i> Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and other Governments to consider providing voluntary contributions to organize these [<i>Group of the Friends of the Co-chair</i>] meetings and to facilitate participation by representatives (Friends and advisors) of eligible Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.	
Decision BS-IV/15 – Assessment and Review	<i>Invites</i> Parties to make submissions on a strategic plan for the Protocol and <i>requests</i> the Executive Secretary to present a draft strategic plan for consideration at its fifth meeting on this basis.	10 October 2009
Decision BS-IV/16 – Socio-Economic Considerations (Article 26, Paragraph 2)	<i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to continue to share, through the Biosafety Clearing-House, their research, research methods and experience in taking into account socio-economic impacts on living modified organisms where it could be retrievable using the search term “socio-economic”;	
Decision BS-IV/17 – Public Awareness, Education and Participation	<p><i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit to the Executive Secretary, at least twelve months before the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, their views on the possible elements of a programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms;</p> <p><i>Invites</i> Parties, Governments and relevant organizations to make available through the BCH, materials and information on opportunities for supporting projects related to Public Awareness, Education and Participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms;</p> <p><i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to cooperate with, and support, the Executive Secretary in the implementation of the Outreach Strategy;</p>	10 October 2009

Actions required from previous decisions

Decision BS-III/10, para. 2	Parties to the Protocol are <i>requested</i> and other Governments are <i>invited</i> to submit to the Executive Secretary, no later than six months prior to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, information on experience gained with the use of documentation referred to in paragraph 1 above, with a view to further harmonization of a documentation format to fulfil the identification requirements set out in paragraph 4 below, including consideration of the need for a stand-alone document, and requests the Executive Secretary to compile the information and to prepare a synthesis report for consideration by the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;	10 April 2010
Decision BS-II/13, para. 5	<i>Further invites</i> 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	
Decision BS-III/16	Parties, Governments and relevant organizations are <i>invited</i> to provide further views and experience on the rights and/or obligations of Parties of transit including whether or not a Party acting only as a Party of transit takes on the obligations of a Party of export under the Protocol, not later than six months prior to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol.	10 February 2010