



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



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AND AGRICULTURE

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NOTIFICATION

Submission of guiding questions in preparation for the online conference on the need and modalities for developing standards on identification, handling, packaging and transport of living modified organisms (paragraph 3 of Article 18 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety)

Madam/Sir,

I would like to draw your attention to decision BS-IV/10 of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Biosafety Protocol where Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations were invited to provide the CBD Executive Secretary with guiding questions for an online conference on paragraph 3 of Article 18.

The online conference is intended to: (i) identify the relevant standards with regard to handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms; (ii) identify where gaps exist; and (iii) suggest possible modalities to fill the gaps.

I would greatly appreciate it if the guiding questions reach the Secretariat as soon as possible, but **no later than 31 October 2008**. The attached information note is intended to provide background information on paragraph 3 of Article 18 and the online conference.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support for the work of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

Attachment

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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Background note for the online conference on paragraph 3 of Article 18 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Paragraph 3 of Article 18 provides that the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties (COP-MOP) to the Protocol “shall consider the need for and modalities of developing standards with regard to identification, handling, packaging and transport practices, in consultation with other relevant international bodies.”

In decision BS-IV/10 adopted at the fourth meeting of COP-MOP, held in Bonn, Germany in May 2008, the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to organize an online conference on paragraph 3 of Article 18 and to prepare a summary of the outcome of the conference, reflecting the full range of views expressed, for the consideration of COP-MOP-5. Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations are invited to provide guiding questions for the online conference and the Executive Secretary is requested to finalize the list of questions in consultation with the COP-MOP Bureau.

In the past, the Executive Secretary has prepared a number of documents on paragraph 3 of Article 18 as part of the processes of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP) and for COP-MOP-1, COP-MOP-3 and COP-MOP-4. The table below provides a summary of these documents and their Article 18.3-related content. These documents contain information on existing standards relating to the handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms and are available through the Secretariat’s website (www.cbd.int). The Parties, other Governments and relevant international organizations are encouraged to draw upon this work in formulating their questions for submission to the Executive Secretary.

Once the guiding questions have been received by the Executive Secretary, a compilation of the questions will be made for the consideration of the COP-MOP Bureau. The questions approved by the COP-MOP Bureau will be used to guide the design of the online conference and the modalities for its conduct. Further information on the conference, including the dates when it will take place and means of participation, will be made available in due course.

Table 1. Summary of ICCP and COP-MOP documents on paragraph 3 of Article 18 as prepared by the Executive Secretary to date.

| Meeting | Document number & summary of content |
|---|---|
| ICCP-1 December 2000 | <p data-bbox="557 1304 1427 1339"><u>Document UNEP/CBD/ICCP/1/6</u></p> <ul data-bbox="557 1339 1427 1535" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="557 1339 1427 1434">- Overview of relevant international rules & standards pertaining to handling, transport and packaging on the one hand, and identification on the other. <li data-bbox="557 1434 1427 1535">- Provides a gap analysis in order to consider the need for developing standards, draws some preliminary conclusions and considers modalities for developing standards |
| Meeting of Technical Experts on Handling, Transport, Packaging & Identification of Living Modified Organisms June 2001 | <p data-bbox="557 1541 1427 1577"><u>Document UNEP/CBD/BS/TE-HTPI/1/2</u></p> <ul data-bbox="557 1577 1427 1902" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="557 1577 1427 1671">- Synthesizes information received from Parties to the Convention and other Governments on existing practices, rules and standards relevant to Article 18. <li data-bbox="557 1671 1427 1839">- Looks at each of handling, transport, packaging and identification in the context of living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing; living modified organisms destined for contained use; and living modified organisms for intentional introduction into the environment. <li data-bbox="557 1839 1427 1902">- Reviews the latest developments in existing rules, practices and standards on packaging, handling, transport and identification. |

| Meeting | Document number & summary of content |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| ICCP-2 October 2001 | <p><u>Document UNEP/CBD/ICCP/2/12</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synthesizes information received from Parties to the Convention and other Governments on existing practices, rules and standards relevant to Article 18. - Looks at each of handling, transport, packaging and identification in the context of living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing; living modified organisms destined for contained use; and living modified organisms for intentional introduction into the environment. - Reviews the latest developments in existing rules, practices and standards on packaging, handling, transport and identification. - Provides options for coordinating the work under Article 18 with the work of other international bodies. |
| ICCP-3 April 2002 | <p><u>Document UNEP/CBD/ICCP/3/7</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Examines the linkages between paragraphs 2(b) and (c) of Article 18 and paragraph 3 of the same article including a summary of responses received from different international organizations on this point. |
| MOP-1 February 2004 | <p><u>Document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/1/7</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides information on existing standards, practices and rules relevant to the handling, packaging, transport and identification of living modified organisms at both the national and international levels. Focuses in particular on identification/labelling. |
| MOP-3 March 2006 | <p><u>Document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/3/8/Add.2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synthesizes information provided by international customs- and transport-related organizations and regulatory agencies on existing international rules, standards or practices applying to the packaging and transport of LMOs, and on the need for and modalities of developing standards with regard to identification, handling, transport and packaging practices involving LMOs. - Provides an overview and update of relevant international bodies and processes. |
| MOP-4 May 2008 | <p><u>Document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/4/8</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synthesizes views and information on the adequacy of existing rules and standards, and on gaps that may exist. - Describes measures taken by the Executive Secretary to forge or continue collaboration with relevant international bodies. - Provides information on existing rules and standards, including on the experiences of relevant international bodies in the establishment of rules and standards relevant to Article 18. |