



Ref.: SCBD/BS/CG/mw/84108

17 November 2014

NOTIFICATION

Decisions of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP/7) addressed directly to Parties and other Governments

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have the pleasure to inform you that the final report¹ of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, 29 September to 3 October 2014 is now available on the website of the Secretariat.

Furthermore, I would like to bring to your attention the relevant paragraphs of the decisions that call for direct action by Parties and other Governments, as part of the programme of work, over the next biennium. Please find attached herewith a summary list of these calls for action and the decisions for your consideration with the expected dates, where appropriate.

I would also like to draw your attention in particular to those actions that call for the submission of pertinent information and/or views to the Secretariat in preparation for the eighth meeting of the COP-MOP. In order to facilitate timely preparations of background documents, it would be appreciated if the appropriate information is submitted by the deadlines indicated in the table enclosed.

I would like to 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.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

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

¹ Available as document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/7/16 at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/bs/mop-07/official/mop-07-16-en.pdf>



Convention on
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**SUMMARY OF REQUESTED ACTIONS AND DATES FOR SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION TO
THE SECRETARIAT
(As derived from the decisions of COP-MOP/7)**

	Requested action/information	Date of action (as appropriate)
BS-VII/1 COMPLIANCE		
BS-VII/1	1. <i>Encourages</i> Parties, when submitting to the Biosafety Clearing-House information required under the Protocol, to upload the actual documents that contain the information or, in cases where they provide a link to a website to access a document, ensure that the link is functional and up-to-date and the information is easily accessible;	On-going
BS-VII/1	2. <i>Also encourages</i> Parties to ensure that the information they make available to the Biosafety Clearing-House is up to date and consistent with their national reports;	On-going
BS-VII/1	3. <i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant international and regional organizations to undertake or support capacity-building initiatives aimed at assisting developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, in the use of the Biosafety Clearing-House and in putting in place facilities that will enable them to submit consistent, up-to-date and complete information through the Biosafety Clearing-House and their national reports and allow developing country Parties access to appropriate technologies for active participation in online activities;	On-going
BS-VII/1	4. <i>Encourages</i> Parties that are facing difficulties complying with one or more of their obligations under the Protocol to seek assistance from the Compliance Committee or the Secretariat in such areas as making information available to the Biosafety Clearing-House and the development or updating of national biosafety frameworks;	On-going

	Requested action/information	Date of action (as appropriate)
BS-VII/1	5. <i>Encourages</i> Parties to implement requirements under Article 23 of the Protocol within a mechanism appropriate to their national circumstances, which could include the integration of public awareness, education and participation in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, broader national frameworks for communication, education and public awareness (CEPA), or efforts to implement Aichi Biodiversity Target 1, taking into account relevant elements of the programme of work on public awareness, education and participation adopted in decision BS-V/13;	On-going
BS-VII/1	6. <i>Encourages</i> Parties to make effective use of the various tools, materials and mechanisms made available by the Secretariat and other sources, including the online forum and the online regional networks established through the Biosafety Clearing-House, to share information, experiences and lessons learned in the implementation of obligations under Article 23 of the Protocol.	On-going
BS-VII/2 OPERATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE		
BS-VII/2	2. <i>Urges</i> Parties and invites other Governments: a. To inform their representatives in other international forums of the possibility of retrieving electronically all data registered in the Biosafety Clearing-House in order to make them available through other related websites;	On-going
BS-VII/2	b. To register in the Biosafety Clearing-House all their final decisions on the first intentional transboundary movement of living modified organisms for intentional introduction into the environment of the Party of import and related risk assessments as requested under the Protocol, with special emphasis on the first intentional transboundary movement of living modified organisms intended for field trials, since this category is currently underrepresented in the Biosafety Clearing-House, while recalling paragraph 1(a) of decision BS-V/2;	On-going with Special Attention
BS-VII/2	3. <i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant international and regional organizations: a. To undertake or support capacity-building initiatives to assist developing country Parties in putting in place facilities enabling them to submit consistent, up-to-date and complete information through the Biosafety Clearing-House and their national reports;	On-going

	Requested action/information	Date of action (as appropriate)
BS-VII/2	b. To provide funding and to strengthen and expand initiatives, as much as possible in a coordinated way, aimed at overcoming obstacles encountered by developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, in meeting their obligations under Article 20 of the Protocol, including capacity-building, training and the development of infrastructure necessary for facilitating the retrieval and submission of information to the Biosafety Clearing-House, while recalling paragraph 10 of decision BS-V/2;	On-going
BS-VII/2	6. <i>Invites</i> Parties, in consultation with the United Nations Environment Programme and other Global Environment Facility implementing agencies, to assess lessons learned from using the advisory system to build capacity in the effective participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House and the possibilities for using such a system to build the capacity for effective participation in other clearing-houses of the Convention on Biological Diversity.	On-going
BS-VII/3 ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROTOCOL (ARTICLE 35)		
BS-VII/3	3. <i>Urges</i> Parties and invites other Governments to contribute effectively to the data collection process by completing and submitting their national reports in a timely manner and by providing adequate and complete information in their reports, in accordance with the relevant decisions on national reporting, especially with regard to timeframes for the submission of such reports;	Reports due 1 st Nov. 2015
BS-VII/3	4. <i>Urges</i> Parties and other Governments to make available all mandatory information in the Biosafety Clearing-House;	On-going
BS-VII/4 CONTAINED USE OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS		
BS-VII/4	1. <i>Invites</i> Parties and other Governments to submit to the Executive Secretary information, tools, practical experience and guidance related to their existing mechanisms and requirements relating to the contained use of living modified organisms, including any specific requirement relating to the type and level of containment;	Submissions due 30 April 2016

	Requested action/information	Date of action (as appropriate)
	BS-VII/5 MATTERS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL MECHANISM AND RESOURCES	
BS-VII/5	4. <i>Urges</i> eligible Parties to prioritize biosafety projects during the programming of their GEF-6 national allocations under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR), taking into account their obligations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020, and the guidance of the Conference of the Parties to the financial mechanism;	On-going
BS-VII/5	5. <i>Encourages</i> Parties to explore the possibility of incorporating biosafety activities into multi-focal area projects, including the proposed “integrated approach pilots”, as well as projects to be developed under the other biodiversity focal area programmes;	On-going
BS-VII/5	6. <i>Also encourages</i> Parties to cooperate at the regional and subregional levels and to request support from the Global Environment Facility for joint projects in order to maximize synergies and opportunities for cost-effective sharing of resources, information, experiences and expertise;	On-going
BS-VII/5	7. <i>Invites</i> Parties and other Governments to engage in activities to raise awareness of relevant government officials (including GEF operational focal points) regarding the importance of biosafety and the national obligations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety with a view to ensuring due consideration of biosafety in the programming of the national GEF allocations for biodiversity;	On-going
BS-VII/5	8. <i>Urges</i> Parties to improve their efforts to access funding for biosafety projects from the Global Environment Facility, inter alia, through better coordination between Cartagena Protocol national focal points, CBD national focal points, and GEF operational focal points;	On-going
BS-VII/5	9. <i>Also urges</i> Parties to cooperate in organizing regional workshops with a view to raising awareness of the Cartagena Protocol as a tool for sustainable development and the importance of fulfilling obligations under the Protocol; identifying available local or regional capacities that may be utilized; and designing projects that have a better chance of being approved;	On-going
BS-VII/5	10. <i>Further urges</i> Parties and invites other Governments to integrate and prioritize biosafety within their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national development plans and programmes, as appropriate;	On-going

	Requested action/information	Date of action (as appropriate)
BS-VII/5	16. <i>Urges</i> Parties that have not yet done so to expedite the enactment of their national biosafety laws to pave the way for securing dedicated funding allocations for biosafety in their national budgets;	On-going
BS-VII/5	17. <i>Also urges</i> Parties and invites other Governments to implement, as appropriate, the following strategic measures within the overall framework of the strategy for resource mobilization in support of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with a view to mobilizing additional financial resources for implementation of the Protocol: (a) Mainstream biosafety into the national development plans, such as Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategies, to make possible to secure national budget support;	On-going
BS-VII/5	(b) Establish strong outreach programmes targeting key policymakers, parliamentarians, the general public and other stakeholders, to promote their awareness of biosafety issues and raise the profile of biosafety among other national priorities;	On-going
BS-VII/5	(c) Strengthen the capacity of the personnel dealing with biosafety to effectively engage and encourage policymakers, decision makers and officials from other sectors about the importance of biosafety and to secure their support;	On-going
BS-VII/5	(d) Identify “biosafety champions” to promote awareness and greater understanding of biotechnology and its regulation among the public and parliamentarians;	On-going
BS-VII/5	(e) Link biosafety to the issues of national concerns and priority for each country so as to attract the attention of policymakers;	On-going
	BS-VII/6 COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, CONVENTIONS AND INITIATIVES	
BS-VII/6	1. <i>Urges</i> Parties to improve and strengthen collaboration at the regional and national levels among focal points of organizations, conventions and initiatives relevant to the implementation of the Biosafety Protocol, as appropriate;	On-going

	Requested action/information	Date of action (as appropriate)
BS-VII/7 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROTOCOL		
BS-VII/7	9. <i>Invites</i> all Parties to the Protocol to note that contributions to the core programme budget (BG) are due on 1 January of the year in which these contributions have been budgeted for, and to pay them promptly, and urges Parties in a position to do so, to pay by 1 December of the year 2014 for the calendar year 2015 and by 1 October 2015 for the calendar year 2016, the contributions set out in table 5 and in this regard requests that Parties be notified of the amount of their contributions for 2016 by 1 August 2015;	Deadlines as outlined in decision
BS-VII/7	11. <i>Urges</i> Parties that have still not paid their contributions to the core budget (BG Trust Fund) for 2014 and prior years; to do so without delay and requests the Executive Secretary to publish and regularly update information on the status of contributions to the Protocol's Trust Funds (currently BG, BH and BI) and on the implication of non-payment of assessed contributions for the fund balance;	Immediate
BS-VII/7	21. <i>Reaffirms</i> the importance of full and effective participation of the developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as Parties with economies in transition, in the activities of the Protocol and, requests the Secretariat to remind Parties of the need to contribute to the Special Voluntary Trust Fund (BI) at least six months prior to the ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and urges Parties in the position to do so to ensure that the contributions are paid at least three months before the meeting;	April 2016 July 2016
BS-VII/8 HANDLING, TRANSPORT, PACKAGING AND IDENTIFICATION (ARTICLE 18)		
BS-VII/8	1. <i>Requests</i> Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and urges other Governments: (a) To continue to take measures ensuring the implementation of requirements in paragraph 2 (a) of Article 18 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and paragraph 4 or 6, as appropriate, of decision BS III/10;	On-going
BS-VII/8	(b) To continue to identify transboundary movements of living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing, by incorporating the information identified in decision BS-III/10 into existing documentation accompanying living modified organisms;	On-going
BS-VII/8	(c) To cooperate with and support developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition in order to build the capacity to implement the identification requirements of paragraph 2 (a) of Article 18 and related decisions;	On-going

	Requested action/information	Date of action (as appropriate)
BS-VII/8	(d) To make available to the Biosafety Clearing House any domestic regulatory requirements related to the identification and documentation of living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed or for processing;	On-going
BS-VII/8	3. <i>Invites</i> Parties and other Governments to use existing guidance for handling, transport and packaging of LMOs as referred to in relation to operational objective 1.6 of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;	On-going
BS-VII/8	5. <i>Encourages</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to provide the Executive Secretary with any additional information that may assist Parties in identifying and applying existing rules and standards, and requests the Executive Secretary to make such information available through the Biosafety Clearing-House.	On-going
BS-VII/9 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROTOCOL AND ON BUDGETARY MATTERS: IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES UNDER THE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS		
BS-VII/9	2. <i>Calls upon</i> developed country Parties to increase their contributions to the relevant voluntary trust funds to ensure the full and effective participation of representatives from developing country Parties, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, in the concurrent meetings;	On-going
BS-VII/10 UNINTENTIONAL TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS AND EMERGENCY MEASURES (ARTICLE 17)		
BS-VII/10	1. <i>Invites</i> Parties and other Governments to submit to the Executive Secretary information on actual cases of unintentional transboundary movement and case studies related to their existing mechanisms for emergency measures in case of unintentional transboundary movements of living modified organisms that are likely to have significant adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, including information on existing rapid alert mechanisms and monitoring systems;	Submissions due 31 August 2015
BS-VII/10	2. <i>Invites</i> Parties and other Governments, in the context of operational objective 1.8 of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020, to submit views on what constitutes unintentional transboundary movements in contrast with illegal transboundary movements and what type of information should be exchanged through the Biosafety Clearing-House;	Submissions due 31 August 2015

	Requested action/information	Date of action (as appropriate)
BS-VII/10	3. <i>Encourages</i> Parties and other Governments, without prejudice to Article 21 on confidential information, to ensure that, for regulatory purposes, the information provided by a notifier at the time of notification includes all the information necessary to detect and identify the living modified organism, including information that allows for its unique identification and where reference materials may be obtained;	On-going
BS-VII/11 NAGOYA – KUALA LUMPUR SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL ON LIABILITY AND REDRESS		
BS-VII/11	2. <i>Calls upon</i> other Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to expedite their internal processes and to deposit their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Supplementary Protocol as soon as possible with a view to ensuring the entry into force of the Supplementary Protocol in time for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;	According to Article 18, the Suppl. Protocol will enter into force on the ninetieth day after the date of deposit of the 40th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. The 40 th instrument must be received by end of July 2016 approx., in order for the NKLSP to enter into force by COP-MOP 8.
BS-VII/11	3. <i>Calls upon</i> States that are Parties to the Convention but not Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Protocol, as appropriate, without further delay, so that they can also become Parties to the Supplementary Protocol;	On-going
BS-VII/11	4. <i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations and institutions to undertake or support further awareness-raising and capacity building activities to promote understanding and implementation of the Supplementary Protocol, including, where appropriate, the development of policy and legislative instruments that provide for response measures for damage to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity resulting from living modified organisms which find their origin in a transboundary movement, taking also into account risks to human health;	On-going

	Requested action/information	Date of action (as appropriate)
	BS-VII/12 RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT (ARTICLES 15 AND 16)	
BS-VII/12	2. <i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to test or use, as appropriate, the Guidance in actual cases of risk assessment and as a tool for capacity-building activities in risk assessment;	On-going
BS-VII/12	5. <i>Invites</i> Parties to submit (a) information on their needs and priorities for further guidance on specific topics of risk assessment of living modified organisms, and (b) existing guidance on specific topics of risk assessment of living modified organisms;	Submissions due 31 May 2016
BS-VII/12	8. <i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to confirm the nominations of their experts who are currently participating in the Online Forum on risk assessment and risk management, requests the Executive Secretary to remove the records of experts whose nominations have not been confirmed, and further invites Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to nominate additional experts to join the Online Forum using the format for the nomination of experts to the Roster of Experts;	Confirmations due 30 November 2014
BS-VII/12	12. <i>Invites</i> Parties and other Governments and relevant organizations to test or use, as appropriate, the package as a tool for, inter alia, capacity-building in risk assessment;	On-going
BS-VII/12	14. <i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and international organizations to provide funds and in-kind assistance to implement the capacity-building activities referred to in paragraph 13 above; <i>(13. Requests</i> the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of funds, to conduct capacity-building activities in risk assessment using the aligned package)	On-going
BS-VII/12	16. <i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to continue submitting, through the Biosafety-Clearing House, the information referred to in paragraph 15 above; <i>(15. Welcomes</i> the creation of sections in the Biosafety Clearing-House where scientific information can be submitted and retrieved regarding living modified organisms or specific traits that may have or that are not likely to have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health)	On-going

	Requested action/information	Date of action (as appropriate)
	BS-VII/13 SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS	
BS-VII/13	4. Requests Parties and invites other Governments, relevant organizations and indigenous and local communities to submit views and comments on the “Elements of a Framework for Conceptual Clarity on Socio-Economic Considerations” contained in the annex to the report of the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Socio-economic Considerations;	Submissions due February 2015
BS-VII/13	6. <i>Invites</i> development partners to support capacity-building activities on socio-economic considerations as specified in paragraphs 2 (n) and (o) of decision BS-VI/5 (appendix II of decision XI/5 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity).	On-going
	BS-VII/14 MONITORING AND REPORTING (ARTICLE 33)	
BS-VII/14	2. <i>Requests</i> Parties to use the revised format for the preparation of their third national report or, in the case of Parties submitting their national report for the first time, to use it for their first national report on the implementation of their obligations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;	On-going
BS-VII/14	3. <i>Invites</i> Parties to prepare their reports through a consultative process involving all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate;	On-going
BS-VII/14	4. <i>Encourages</i> Parties to respond to all questions in the reporting format in order to facilitate the monitoring of progress towards the implementation of the objectives identified in the Strategic Plan and also contribute to the third assessment and review of the Cartagena Protocol;	On-going
BS-VII/14	5. <i>Requests</i> Parties to submit to the Secretariat their third national report on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: (a) In an official language of the United Nations; (b) Twelve months prior to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, which will consider the report; (c) Through the Biosafety Clearing-House, or in the format that will be made available by the Secretariat for this purpose, duly signed by the national focal point;	Reports due 1st Nov. 2015