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3 March 2017

NOTIFICATION

Follow-up to decisions of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: Overview of requests for action and planned activities for the next biennium

Dear Madam/Sir,

The purpose of this notification is to bring to your attention the decisions adopted at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol (COP-MOP 8) that request action by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations in relation to the Cartagena Protocol, as well as to provide information on planned activities for the biennium 2017-2018 in light of the decisions adopted at COP-MOP 8.

Actions to be undertaken by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations

A number of decisions adopted at COP-MOP 8 call for action by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations. A list of these requests and decisions is included in the annex for your consideration.

The Secretariat will follow up in due course to invite submissions, as appropriate, in preparation for intersessional activities.

Intersessional activities for the biennium 2017-2018

The following intersessional activities in support of the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol will take place in line with the decisions by COP-MOP 8:

- The fourteenth meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (16 to 18 May 2017);
- The eleventh meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee (IAC) on the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) (tentatively scheduled for the fourth quarter 2017);
- A meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Socio-economic Considerations (tentatively scheduled for the fourth quarter 2017);
- The fifteenth meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (tentatively scheduled for the second quarter 2018);

To: CPB National Focal Points and CBD National Focal Points (where CPB focal points have not yet been designated), relevant organizations



- The 22nd meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), which will consider issues related to risk assessment and risk management as per decision CP-VIII/12 (tentatively scheduled for mid-2018);
- The second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI), which will review the revised format for the fourth national reports (tentatively scheduled for mid-2018).

Further details on these activities will be provided in due course.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of 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.

David Cooper
Deputy-Executive Secretary
Officer-in-Charge

Enclosure



Annex

SUMMARY OF REQUESTS FOR ACTION AS DERIVED FROM THE DECISIONS¹ ADOPTED AT THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

Decision	Requested action/information
COMPLIANCE	
CP VIII/1	2. <i>Urges</i> Parties to make use of all available means of support to assist them in fulfilling their obligations;
CP VIII/1	4. <i>Urges</i> Parties that have not yet completely put in place legal, administrative and other measures to implement their obligations under the Protocol to do so, paying particular attention to the importance of putting in place monitoring systems as a prerequisite for effective reporting;
CP VIII/1	5. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary, as appropriate and following guidance provided by the Committee, to continue following up with Parties that have not yet fully complied with their obligations under the Protocol, and <i>requests</i> Parties to collaborate fully in this regard;
OPERATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE BIOSAFETY CLEARING-HOUSE	
CP VIII/2	1. <i>Notes with concern</i> the decline in the number of records related to capacity-building activities that were registered in the Biosafety Clearing House, and <i>urges</i> Parties and invites other Governments and relevant organizations to register in the Biosafety Clearing-House their capacity-building activities, projects and opportunities;

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2016/cp-mop-8/documents>

Decision	Requested action/information
CP VIII/2	2. <i>Recalls</i> decision BS-VII/2 urging Parties and inviting other Governments 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;
CP VIII/2	3. <i>Reminds</i> Parties of their obligation to notify affected or potentially affected States, the Biosafety Clearing-House and, where appropriate, relevant international organizations, when it knows of an occurrence under its jurisdiction resulting in a release that leads, or may lead, to an unintentional transboundary movement of a living modified organism that is likely to have significant adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health in such States;
CP VIII/2	4. <i>Urges</i> Parties that have not yet completely done so to make all required information available to the Biosafety Clearing-House and keep the records up-to-date focusing in particular on information related to: (a) national biosafety frameworks, legislation, regulations and guidelines; (b) summaries of risk assessments; (c) final decisions regarding living modified organisms and living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing; (d) national focal points and national points of contact; and (e) information on bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements or arrangements into which they have entered and which have relevance for biosafety;
CP VIII/2	5. <i>Invites</i> Parties in a position to do so to provide funds to enable the translation of training materials and other resources into all of the official languages of the United Nations after the migration of the Biosafety Clearing-House to the new platform;
CAPACITY-BUILDING	
CP VIII/3	2. <i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to continue efforts to enhance the implementation of the Framework and Action Plan for Capacity-Building;
CP VIII/3	3. <i>Urges</i> Parties, for the remaining period until 2020, to prioritize and focus, as appropriate, on operational objectives relating to the development of national biosafety legislation, risk assessment, detection and identification of living modified organisms, and public awareness, education and participation in view of their importance in facilitating the implementation of the Protocol;
CP VIII/3	4. <i>Invites</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, in a position to do so, to provide additional financial and technical support to enable developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition to further implement the Framework and Action Plan for Capacity-Building;
CP VIII/3	6. <i>Urges</i> Parties and other Governments to integrate biosafety in their national biodiversity strategies and actions plans and broader national development strategies for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals;

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ROSTER OF BIOSAFETY EXPERTS	
CP VIII/4	1. <i>Invites</i> Parties and other Governments that have not yet done so to nominate experts to the roster and those that have done so to invite the experts nominated to the roster to update their records;
CP VIII/4	2. <i>Reiterates</i> its invitation to developed country Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to make voluntary contributions in order to fully operationalize the roster, so as to facilitate implementation of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol for the period 2011-2020;
CP VIII/4	4. <i>Encourages</i> Parties and other Governments to consider nominating experts in areas where there is a lack of expertise on the current roster, for example, in the areas of management of data related to biosafety and biodiversity, socio-economic analysis and trade, synthetic biology, and public awareness, education and participation;
COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, CONVENTIONS AND INITIATIVES	
CP VIII/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;
SUBSIDIARY BODIES (ARTICLE 30)	
CP VIII/8	3. <i>Encourages</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to provide adequate funds to enable the ad hoc technical expert groups to carry out their mandates effectively.
INTEGRATION AMONG THE CONVENTION AND ITS PROTOCOLS	
CP VIII/10	2. <i>Reiterates</i> its call to developed country Parties to increase their contributions to the relevant voluntary trust funds in order to ensure the full and effective participation of representatives of developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and Parties with economies in transition, in the concurrent meetings;

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NAGOYA – KUALA LUMPUR SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL ON LIABILITY AND REDRESS	
CP VIII/11	2. <i>Calls</i> upon 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 Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol as soon as possible with a view to ensuring the expeditious entry into force of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol;
CP VIII/11	3. <i>Calls</i> upon States that are Parties to the Convention but not Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Cartagena Protocol, as appropriate, without further delay, so that they can also become Parties to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol;
RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT (ARTICLES 15 AND 16)	
CP VIII/12	3. <i>Invites</i> interested Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to take the Guidance into account as a voluntary tool to assist in conducting risk assessment in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol while acknowledging that other guidance documents and national approaches can also assist in conducting risk assessment in accordance with the Protocol;
CP VIII/12	4. <i>Invites</i> interested Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations that have used the Guidance and/or other guidance documents and national approaches to share an assessment of their applicability and usefulness through the Biosafety Clearing-House;
CP VIII/12	6. <i>Invites</i> Parties to submit to the Executive Secretary: (a) information on their needs and priorities for further guidance on specific topics of risk assessment of living modified organisms, (b) proposals on criteria, including the technical justification, that may facilitate the selection of topics for the development of further guidance, and (c) views on perceived gaps in existing guidance materials;
SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS (ARTICLE 26)	
CP VIII/13	3. <i>Urges</i> Parties to provide the necessary funds for a face-to-face meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Socio-Economic Considerations, ensuring the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, supported by such online discussions as may be necessary to achieve its mandate;
MONITORING AND REPORTING (ARTICLE 33)	
CP VIII/14	5. <i>Urges</i> Parties that have not yet submitted their third national report to do so as soon as possible;

Decision	Requested action/information
CP VIII/14	6. <i>Also urges</i> Parties that have not submitted a complete third national report to do so as soon as possible;
THIRD ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY AND MID-TERM EVALUATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN	
CP VIII/15	5. <i>Notes with concern</i> the lower rate of submission of the third national reports in comparison with the previous reporting cycle, and <i>urges</i> the Parties that have not yet submitted their third national report to do so as soon as possible;
CP VIII/15	9. <i>Notes with concern</i> that, to date, only approximately half of the Parties have fully put in place legal, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the Protocol, and <i>urges</i> Parties that have not yet fully done so to put in place their national biosafety frameworks, in particular biosafety legislation, as a matter of priority;
CP VIII/15	10. <i>Calls upon</i> Parties, for the remaining period of the Strategic Plan, to consider prioritizing the operational objectives relating to the development of biosafety legislation, risk assessment, risk management, detection and identification of living modified organisms, and public awareness, education and training in view of their critical importance in facilitating the implementation of the Protocol;
CP VIII/15	11. <i>Urges</i> Parties to undertake targeted capacity-building activities on biosafety and to share relevant experiences and lessons learned from these activities through the Biosafety Clearing-House in order to facilitate further development and implementation of the Protocol;
CP VIII/15	12. <i>Encourages</i> Parties to make use of the Biosafety Clearing-House to share experiences on national processes and best practices related to socioeconomic considerations in decision-making related to living modified organisms, as appropriate, and in accordance with national legislation;
CP VIII/15	13. <i>Also encourages</i> those Parties that have not yet done so to deposit their instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Nagoya–Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress as soon as possible;
CP VIII/15	14. <i>Further encourages</i> Parties to continue to enhance capacity for public awareness, education and participation regarding the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, including for indigenous peoples and local communities, and to integrate training, public awareness, education and participation into national initiatives for communication, education and public awareness, initiatives for the Sustainable Development Goals, initiatives for climate change mitigation and adaptation and other environmental initiatives;
CP VIII/15	16. <i>Notes</i> that a lack of awareness and political support for biosafety issues contributes to limited access to and uptake of funding for biosafety, and <i>urges</i> Parties to enhance efforts to raise awareness of key biosafety-related issues among policy and decision-makers;

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CP VIII/15	17. <i>Urges</i> Parties to strengthen national consultative mechanisms among relevant government institutions regarding the programming of national Global Environment Facility allocations with a view to ensuring appropriate funding for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol;
CP VIII/15	18. <i>Invites</i> Parties in a position to do so and international organizations to provide support for the implementation of the Protocol, based on the expressed needs of Parties, especially for developing countries and, in particular, least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition;
UNINTENTIONAL TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENTS AND EMERGENCY MEASURES (ARTICLE 17)	
CP VIII/16	2. <i>Encourages</i> Parties to make use of the operational definitions of the terms “unintentional transboundary movement” and “illegal transboundary movement” when completing their national reports;
CP VIII/16	3. <i>Urges</i> Parties to submit to the Biosafety Clearing-House information and available guidance on the mechanisms for emergency measures in case of a release that leads or may lead to an unintentional transboundary movement of a living modified organism that is likely to have significant adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health;
CP VIII/16	5. <i>Invites</i> Parties to provide information regarding their capacity and needs in the detection and identification of living modified organisms, including a list of laboratories and their specific activities;
CP VIII/16	6. <i>Encourages</i> Parties to establish effective mechanisms to support the workflow for sampling, detection and identification by, for example, providing border control officials and laboratories with the appropriate mandates to sample, detect and identify living modified organisms, ensuring that laboratories remain functional and that they receive high-quality test samples;
CP VIII/16	7. <i>Encourages</i> Parties to establish, support and participate in regional and subregional networks on the detection of living modified organisms in order to promote technical cooperation in the field and, subject to the availability of funds, for example through the roster of biosafety experts, provide the networks with opportunities to host training workshops and requests the Global Environment Facility to provide funds for the hosting of such workshops;
CP VIII/16	8. <i>Invites</i> Parties to nominate experts in the field of living modified organism detection and identification to the roster of biosafety experts;
CP VIII/16	9. <i>Encourages</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit to the Biosafety Clearing-House information on methods for the detection and identification of living modified organisms, with special emphasis on validated methods;

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TRANSIT AND CONTAINED USE OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS (ARTICLE 6)	
CP VIII/17	2. <i>Encourages</i> Parties and <i>invites</i> other Governments to make available to the Biosafety Clearing House their laws, regulations and guidelines regarding contained use and transit of living modified organisms;
CP VIII/17	6. <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 to the Biosafety Clearing-House practical guidance on specific measures for contained use that effectively limit the contact of living modified organisms with, and their impact on, the external environment;
CP VIII/17	7. <i>Encourages</i> Parties to further develop measures to manage living modified organisms in transit and to make available in the Biosafety Clearing-House information on such measures;
PUBLIC AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND PARTICIPATION (ARTICLE 23)	
CP VIII/18	2. <i>Urges</i> developed country Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to provide additional support, including financial resources, to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to implement the programme of work;
CP VIII/18	3. <i>Urges</i> Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to implement the programme of work and actively share their experiences and lessons learned through the Biosafety Clearing-House, and relevant national and regional clearing-houses;
CP VIII/18	4. <i>Invites</i> Parties to participate in the biosafety theme in the Forum on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs Forum) in order to promote and facilitate the integration of the programme of work into national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
CP VIII/18	7. <i>Encourages</i> Parties to continue to enhance capacity for public awareness, education and participation, including access to information, regarding the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms, including for indigenous peoples and local communities, and to integrate training, public awareness, education and participation into national initiatives for communication, education and public awareness, initiatives for the Sustainable Development Goals, initiatives for climate change mitigation and adaptation and other environmental initiatives;
CP VIII/18	8. <i>Encourages</i> regional stakeholders and donors to play a greater role in supporting the integration of the programme of work into national initiatives to implement focal area 5 of the Framework and Action Plan for Capacity-Building for the Effective Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in order to enhance capacity on public awareness, education and participation and Focal Area 5 of the Strategic Plan for Biosafety with a view to raising the profile of the Protocol through outreach and communication.