

## NOTIFICATION

### Follow-up to decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at its eleventh meeting

#### Overview of requests for action and planned activities for the biennium 2025–2026

Dear Sir or Madam,

The purpose of the present notification is to bring to your attention the decisions adopted at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 11) that contain requests for action by Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations in relation to the Cartagena Protocol, and to provide information on planned activities for the biennium 2025–2026 in the light of the decisions adopted at that meeting.

The present notification also addresses biosafety-related requests for action contained in the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its sixteenth meeting. Taking into account the call for a coordinated, complementary and non-duplicative approach on issues related to synthetic biology under the Convention and its Protocols, and in line with previous decisions of the Conference of the Parties, information related to synthetic biology has been included in the notification.

A list of the aforementioned requests and decisions is provided in the annex, for your consideration and appropriate action.

#### Intersessional activities for the biennium 2025–2026

The following intersessional meetings in support of the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol are planned to take place in line with the decisions adopted at COP-MOP 11:

- The twentieth meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (to be held from 27 to 29 May 2025)
- A meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management (tentatively scheduled for the week of 7 July 2025)
- The thirteenth meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on the Biosafety Clearing-House (to be held from 9 to 11 December 2025)
- A meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology (tentatively scheduled for the first quarter 2026)

To: Cartagena Protocol national focal points and CBD national focal points (where Cartagena Protocol focal points have not yet been designated), indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant organizations

- The fifteenth meeting of the Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (tentatively scheduled for the second quarter 2026)
- The twenty-first meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (tentatively scheduled for the second quarter 2026)
- A meeting of the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms (tentatively scheduled for the second quarter 2026).

Matters related to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety will also be considered at intersessional meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation:

- Risk assessment and risk management will be considered by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-seventh session to be held from 20 to 24 October 2025;
- Synthetic biology will be considered by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-eighth meeting, which is tentatively planned for the third quarter 2026.

Planning for the Subsidiary Body on Implementation is under consideration.

Where applicable, the Secretariat will invite submissions, in due course, in preparation for intersessional activities. Additional information will be provided by means of notifications and in the online calendar of meetings (<https://www.cbd.int/meetings/>).

Furthermore, Parties are reminded that the fifth national reports on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety are to be submitted by **28 February 2026**. For further information, please see [notification 2024-073](#) (issued on 15 July 2024) as well as the page on [frequently asked questions about the fifth national report](#) on the Biosafety Clearing-House.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support for the work of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and look forward to your continued cooperation.

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

*(Signed)* Astrid Schomaker  
Executive Secretary

Enclosure

*Annex*

**Summary of requests for action derived from the decisions adopted at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity\***

<b>Decisions adopted at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety</b>
<b>Decision CP-11/1. Compliance</b>
<b>A</b> <b>Compliance: general issues</b>
1. <i>Reminds</i> Parties of the importance of complying with their obligations under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; <sup>1</sup>
<sup>1</sup> United Nations, <i>Treaty Series</i> , vol. 2226, No. 30619.
2. <i>Also reminds</i> Parties of their obligation to designate a national focal point and to keep information on their national focal points up to date;
3. <i>Requests</i> that Parties collaborate fully when requested to provide information related to their compliance with obligations under the Cartagena Protocol;
4. <i>Notes with appreciation</i> the efforts made by Parties to comply with their obligations under the Cartagena Protocol to make information available to the Biosafety Clearing-House, and urges Parties to ensure that this information is consistent with the information provided in their national reports;
5. <i>Encourages</i> Parties to use the free text fields in the format for the fifth national report to explain the responses provided, and invites Parties that are facing challenges in complying with certain obligations to share information in those free text fields on the challenges encountered;
6. <i>Recalls</i> that Parties facing difficulties with complying with one or more obligations under the Cartagena Protocol are urged to seek assistance from the Compliance Committee;
9. <i>Urges</i> Parties, and invites other Governments, to provide voluntary funds in support of the 11 Parties <sup>2</sup> that have developed compliance action plans, as well as any additional Parties that develop and implement such plans at the request of the Compliance Committee;
<sup>2</sup> Barbados, Burundi, Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Samoa, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Tunisia.
10. <i>Urges</i> eligible Parties to prioritize biosafety projects during the programming of their national allocations under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources;
11. <i>Reminds</i> Parties of Article 23 of the Cartagena Protocol, including its provisions relating to public awareness and education, and its potential to facilitate compliance with the Protocol, recalling that materials and tools have been developed by the Secretariat and are available on the Biosafety Clearing-House.

\* The full text of the decisions is available at <https://www.cbd.int/decisions/mop?m=cp-mop-11> and <https://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop?m=cop-16>.

## **B**

### **Compliance: caution**

1. *Cautions* Belize, Libya and Papua New Guinea;
2. *Requests* Belize, Libya and Papua New Guinea to submit their fourth national reports as a matter of urgency;
3. *Encourages* Belize, Libya and Papua New Guinea to seek the assistance of the Compliance Committee, in accordance with decision [BS-V/1](#), should they require support in preparing their reports.

## **C**

### **Compliance: other matters**

1. *Encourages* Parties to submit information regarding national legislation, regulations and guidelines on new developments in modern biotechnology that are relevant to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and not published in the Biosafety Clearing-House;

#### **Decision CP-11/2. Matters related to the financial mechanism and resources**

3. *Encourages* eligible Parties:
  - (a) To submit project proposals to the Global Environment Facility in support of the implementation of Target 17 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework<sup>7</sup> and the implementation plan and the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol, proactively making use of the notional allocation to support the implementation of the Protocol in the programming directions of the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and of the programming directions for the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, and to take note of the relevant information in the report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility for the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention when submitting such proposals;
  - (b) To cooperate at the regional and subregional levels, as appropriate, to prepare requests for support from the Global Environment Facility for joint projects contributing to, and maximizing complementarities and opportunities for, the cost-effective sharing of resources, information, experiences and expertise;
4. *Encourages* Parties to include needs and provisions for implementing Target 17 of the Framework and the implementation plan and the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol in their national biodiversity finance plans and their national implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization for the Framework;<sup>8</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Decision [15/4](#), annex.

<sup>8</sup> Decision 16/34, annex I.

#### **Decision CP-11/3. Operation and activities of the Biosafety Clearing-House**

3. *Urges* Parties to make all required information systematically available on the Biosafety Clearing-House, including legal measures for implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,<sup>3</sup> decisions on the import or release of living modified organisms and cases of unintentional or illegal transboundary movements, in a timely manner, in accordance with the obligations under the Protocol and the procedures and mechanisms established in decision [BS-I/3](#) of 27 February 2004;

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

4. *Requests* Parties to review their national records published in the Biosafety Clearing-House for accuracy, including by verifying that the information made available on the Biosafety Clearing-House is up to date and complete and that the actual documents containing the information are uploaded correctly or, in cases where links to the documents are provided, that the links are functional, noting that the

Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol will be reviewing the information on the Biosafety Clearing-House at its twentieth meeting, in accordance with the obligations under the Protocol and the procedures and mechanisms established in decision [BS-1/3](#);

5. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit scientific information to improve the quality of information published in the Biosafety Clearing-House;

6. *Urges* Parties to start the preparation of their fifth national reports on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and ensure the publication thereof in the Biosafety Clearing-House in a timely manner;

7. *Welcomes* the successful implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme-Global Environment Facility project for sustainable capacity-building for effective participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House, and urges potential donor country Parties, other Governments and funding organizations to provide funds to continue the project and other capacity-building projects related to the Biosafety Clearing-House and to support the network of regional advisers;

8. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, and invites other relevant funds, to continue to make funds available to Parties in support of activities related to the Biosafety Clearing-House and national biosafety websites;

**Decision CP-11/5. Options to further improve the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols**

12. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to engage with indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and other national observer organizations and to solicit views from a wide range of relevant sectors in the process of preparations at the national level for meetings of the governing and subsidiary bodies, to inform the development of their national positions, as appropriate, and taking into account national circumstances;

**Decision CP-11/7. Risk assessment and risk management**

3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth organizations and relevant organizations and stakeholders to make use of the additional voluntary guidance materials in conducting relevant risk assessments and as a tool for capacity-building activities in risk assessment;

5. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant organizations and stakeholders that have used the voluntary guidance materials to submit to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity information on their experiences and assessment of the applicability and usefulness of the materials;

8. *Invites* Parties to submit detailed information on their needs and priorities for further guidance materials on specific topics of risk assessment of living modified organisms, including a rationale following the criteria set out in annex I to decision [CP-9/13](#);

**Decision CP-11/8. Detection and identification of living modified organisms**

1. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, participants in the Network of Laboratories for the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms, developers and other relevant organizations to submit to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>2</sup> technical reference documents and other materials related to new quantitative polymerase chain reaction techniques, digital polymerase chain reaction, next-generation sequencing and isothermal amplification techniques in order to complement and update future editions of the *Training Manual on the Detection and Identification of Living Modified Organisms in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*;

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

2. *Invites* Parties to share through the Biosafety Clearing-House, in accordance with national decisions and legislation, if appropriate, their experience with new detection techniques, such as those for detecting newly developed living modified organisms and unauthorized living modified organisms,

including those that contain stacked events, and with developing, using and maintaining reference materials;

3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to share and make available through the Biosafety Clearing-House training materials and reference publications;

4. *Encourages* Parties to establish regional networks of laboratories and partnerships to support activities in the field of detection and identification of living modified organisms, and to promote capacity-building and knowledge-sharing;

5. *Urges* Parties, and invites other Governments and international organizations, to provide financial resources to laboratories, in particular in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States, and in countries with economies in transition, in order to strengthen the infrastructure for the detection and identification of living modified organisms, the formation of regional networks of laboratories, capacity-building activities and the development or acquisition of certified reference materials;

7. *Encourages* technology developers to share, as appropriate, detection and identification methods on newly developed living modified organisms through the Biosafety Clearing-House;

**Decision CP-11/9. Socioeconomic considerations**

3. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to use the voluntary guidance and share their experiences in this regard in the fifth national reports or to make such experiences available in the Biosafety Clearing-House virtual library;

5. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and organizations to carry out capacity-building and awareness-raising activities in support of Goal A.9 of the implementation plan and the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol, and encourages donors to provide the necessary resources in this regard.

**Decision CP-11/10. Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress**

2. *Notes with regret* the limited number of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol that have ratified the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol, and invites all Parties to the Cartagena Protocol that have not yet done so to deposit an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Supplementary Protocol as soon as possible;

4. *Reminds* Parties to the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol to designate a competent authority to perform the functions set out in Article 5 of the Supplementary Protocol and to publish information on the competent authorities using the common format available for that purpose in the Biosafety Clearing-House;

6. *Invites* Parties to share information on financial security mechanisms, together with other information on national measures for the implementation of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol, in their fifth national reports, and requests the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>6</sup> to use that information when preparing the documentation for the first assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Supplementary Protocol;<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

<sup>7</sup> See decision [CP-10/13](#), para. 12.

7. *Invites* Parties, other Governments and organizations to carry out capacity-building and awareness-raising activities in support of the ratification and the effective implementation of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol, and encourages donors to provide the resources necessary in that regard, further to Goal A.10 of the implementation plan and the capacity-building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol;

**Decisions adopted at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity**

**Decision 16/21. Synthetic biology**

2. *Urges* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant organizations, to provide financial and technical support for capacity-building and development and for technology transfer initiatives in developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and Parties with economies in transition, including for research and development and for assessment in the field of synthetic biology;

3. *Calls upon* Parties and other stakeholders to facilitate broad international cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge-sharing and capacity-building and development related to synthetic biology, taking the needs of Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth into account;

4. *Encourages* Parties to share their needs and priorities with regard to synthetic biology in the context of the Framework, including through the regional and subregional support centres of the technical and scientific cooperation mechanism;

7. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, academia, research institutions, the business sector and other relevant organizations to submit information on their experiences, needs and priorities with regard to: (a) synthetic biology, to support the preparation of the thematic action plan referred to in paragraph 5; and (b) other relevant processes and initiatives on capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing related to synthetic biology;

8. *Also invites* Parties, other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, academia, research institutions, the business sector and relevant organizations to submit information on their priority areas in relation to synthetic biology, including the most recent technological developments, relevant to the three objectives of the Convention and the Framework, with a view to informing the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology outlined in paragraph 3 of the annex to the present decision;

**Decision 16/33. Financial Mechanism**

**I**

**Global Environment Facility Trust Fund**

2. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to encourage eligible Parties to submit project proposals in support of the implementation of Target 17 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the implementation plan<sup>9</sup> and the capacity-building action plan<sup>10</sup> for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

<sup>9</sup> Decision [CP-10/3](#), annex.

<sup>10</sup> Decision [CP-10/4](#), annex.

3. *Invites* relevant Parties to the Cartagena Protocol to access proactively the notional allocation available for the Protocol from the eighth replenishment programming directions;

6. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to identify, in collaboration with eligible Parties, the causes for the underuse of the notional allocation available for the Protocols and to propose adequate measures to address those causes in order to increase its use and to include related information in the next report of its Council to the Conference of the Parties;



## VI

### Review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism

33. *Requests* that the Global Environment Facility continue to strengthen its efforts to mobilize resources to support the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and, in particular, the Framework, including by mobilizing voluntary contributions from developed country Parties, other Parties that voluntarily assume the obligations of developed country Parties, other countries and other sources, such as multilateral development banks, the private sector and philanthropic organizations, as well as through sustainable finance instruments, in order to improve the predictability, adequacy and timely flow of funds and to contribute to closing the biodiversity financing gap;

34. *Also requests* that the Global Environment Facility:

(d) Further explore modalities to enhance the effectiveness of processes for funding activities under the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol and to encourage take-up by countries;

## Annex II

### Additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility

The Conference of the Parties:

#### *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety*

8. Requests the Global Environment Facility, and invites other relevant funds, to continue to make funds available to Parties in support of activities related to the Biosafety Clearing-House and national biosafety websites;

9. Also requests the Global Environment Facility to assist eligible Parties by providing timely access to the means of implementation at the scale required to cover the scope and speed of the assistance needed, including for strengthening the infrastructure for the detection and identification of living modified organisms, establishing regional networks of laboratories, undertaking capacity-building activities and developing or acquiring certified reference materials, and urges Parties to submit appropriate proposals in that context to the Global Environment Facility to enable support for such activities;

10. Further requests the Global Environment Facility:<sup>38</sup>

(a) To make funds available in a timely manner to support eligible Parties in preparing and submitting their fifth national reports under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;<sup>39</sup>

<sup>38</sup> The requests in subparagraphs 1 (b) and (c) of decision CP-11/2 have been included in enclosure I of annex I to the present decision, as recommended by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol.

<sup>39</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2226, No. 30619.

(b) To further explore modalities to reform its operations, including by considering how to increase funds dedicated to the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and the use of global and regional projects, in such a manner as to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities effectively in operating the financial mechanism for the Protocol on an interim and ongoing basis, and report on those matters to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its seventeenth meeting;

(c) To consider the relevance of creating a stand-alone finance window for biosafety, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its twelfth meeting;

(d) To simplify the process for the submission of biosafety project proposals;

(e) To facilitate capacity-building activities, including through webinars, on designing biosafety projects;