



## CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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### **PRESS ADVISORY**

#### **Member governments of the Biosafety Protocol to meet to finalize documentation rules for genetically modified commodities**

Montreal, 24 May 2005 – More than 800 government officials, civil society and business representatives will meet here next week from 30 May to 3 June for the second meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

The five-day meeting is scheduled to finalize the documentation requirements for bulk shipments of genetically modified corn, soybean and other agricultural commodities that are intended for food, feed or processing. This has been a contentious issue since the Protocol negotiations. The debate centres on the trade-offs between the usefulness of detailed information in the documentation in enhancing the safe handling of GMOs and the costs of assembling such documentation. This question is related to the issue of segregating GM from non-GM commodities during storage and transport

Other issues to be discussed include: cooperation in research and information exchange on the socio-economic impacts of GMOs, especially on indigenous and local communities; how to notify importing countries prior to the first shipment of a GMO under the Protocol's Advance Informed Agreement procedure; and the development of guidance on a common approach to risk assessment and risk management.

In addition, the meeting will review the operation of the Biosafety Clearing-House, the status of capacity-building activities and the use of the roster of experts. It will also consider reports from the Compliance Committee and the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Liability and Redress in the context of the Protocol.

Representatives of bona fide media organizations, in particular those covering environmental, social, trade and economic issues as well as UN and international affairs are invited and encouraged to register to cover the meeting.

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#### **Note to journalists:**

1. The meeting will be held at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Building, 999 University Street, Montreal.
2. Media accreditation forms are available at: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/bs/mop-02/other/mop-02-media-accr-en.pdf> Send your completed form to the CBD Secretariat by fax (+1 514 288 6588) or e-mail ([secretariat@biodiv.org](mailto:secretariat@biodiv.org))

3. A press release and other information materials for the media, will be available shortly in the COP-MOP 2 Press Room at: <http://www.biodiv.org/meetings/mop-02/press/index.shtml>.
4. Official meeting documents and information for participants can be found at: <http://www.biodiv.org/biosafety/cop-mop/second-meeting.aspx>

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