

Press release

International treaty on protecting biodiversity through the Biosafety Protocol will mark its twentieth anniversary this year

Montreal – 29 January 2023 – Twenty-three years ago, on 29 January 2000, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The Cartagena Protocol entered into force on 11 September 2003. This year will mark the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The anniversary theme is: 20 Years of Promoting the Safety in the Use of Biotechnology.

The Cartagena Protocol is a milestone achievement under the Convention on Biological Diversity, making a significant contribution to protecting biodiversity by requiring the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 173 States and the European Union have become Parties to the Cartagena Protocol.

The 10th Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the UN Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 10) adopted the [Implementation Plan for the Cartagena Protocol](#) for the period up to 2030. The Implementation Plan, consisting of goals, objectives, indicators, and outcomes, will help guide Parties in their implementation of the Protocol and measure progress.

COP-MOP 10 also adopted the Capacity-Building Action Plan for the period up to 2030 that is aimed at facilitating the development and strengthening the capacities of Parties to implement the Protocol, including by facilitating the engagement of partners, including donors, and by promoting regional and international cooperation and coordination. The plan has 14 goals as well as areas of capacity-building, capacity-building activities, indicators, and outcomes.

The 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity also adopted the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The GBF includes four goals and 23 targets for achievement by 2030, including Target 17 to establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement in all countries in biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention and measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19 of the Convention. The Implementation Plan is complementary to the Global Biodiversity Framework and will support the goals and targets relevant to biosafety.

“Technology is always changing, and that includes biotechnology. Biotechnology should go hand-in-hand with biosafety measures that are effective in safeguarding biological diversity. The adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Implementation Plan and the Capacity-Building Plan are critical tools in advancing the biosafety agenda over the coming years. We can all contribute to the success of these plans by providing human, technical and financial resources and effective cooperation”.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, CBD Executive Secretary

Notes from the editors



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