



Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SERVING AS THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA
PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

Eighth meeting

Cancun, Mexico, 4-17 December 2016

Agenda item 14.2

DECISION ADOPTED BY THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

VIII/15. Third assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recalling decision BS-VII/3,

Also recalling decision BS-VI/15, paragraphs 1 and 2,

Taking note of the comparative analysis prepared by the Executive Secretary¹ and reviewed by the Subsidiary Body at its first meeting with input from the Compliance Committee and a contribution from the Liaison Group on Capacity Building,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in undertaking the third assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol and the midterm evaluation of the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020;²

2. *Also welcomes* the input of the Compliance Committee to the assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol and the mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan,³ and *requests* the Committee to continue providing inputs to the final evaluation of the Strategic Plan;

3. *Further welcomes* the contribution from the Liaison Group on Capacity Building;⁴

¹ UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/8/12/Add.1.

² UNEP/CBD/COP/13/6, sect. I, recommendation 1/3.

³ UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/INF/34.

⁴ UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/INF/35.

4. *Welcomes further* the Compliance Committee's supportive role, carried out pursuant to decision BS-V/1, as a contribution to the progress reported, and *requests* the Committee to continue carrying out this supportive role in accordance with its mandate;

5. *Notes with concern* the lower rate of submission of the third national reports in comparison with the previous reporting cycle, and *urges* the Parties that have not yet submitted their third national report to do so as soon as possible;

6. *Notes* the absence of clear linkages between some of the outcomes and indicators in the current Strategic Plan, and *agrees* to improve such linkages in a follow-up to the present Strategic Plan;

7. *Also notes* that, in the follow-up to the present Strategic Plan, indicators should be simplified, streamlined and made easily measurable with a view to ensuring that progress towards achieving operational objectives can be readily tracked and quantified;

8. *Further notes* the slow progress in: (a) the development of modalities for cooperation and guidance in identifying living modified organisms or specific traits that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health; (b) capacity-building for risk assessment and risk management; (c) socioeconomic considerations; and (d) capacity-building to take appropriate measures in cases of unintentional release of living modified organisms that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health;

9. *Notes with concern* 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 *urges* 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;

10. *Calls upon* 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;

11. *Urges* 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;

12. *Encourages* 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;

13. *Also encourages* 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;

14. *Further encourages* 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;

15. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties, in adopting its guidance to the financial mechanism with respect to support for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol, invite the Global Environment Facility to continue to assist eligible Parties that have not yet done so to put in place a national biosafety framework and to make funds available to this end;

16. *Notes* that a lack of awareness and political support for biosafety issues contributes to limited access to and uptake of funding for biosafety, and *urges* Parties to enhance efforts to raise awareness of key biosafety-related issues among policy- and decision makers;

17. *Urges* 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;

18. *Invites* 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;

19. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To undertake regional and subregional workshops and other relevant activities, subject to the availability of resources, in order to enhance the capacity of Parties to promote the integration of biosafety considerations into national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national development plans and national strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

(b) To carry out further capacity-building activities, subject to the availability of resources, including on the possible impact of living modified organisms on indigenous peoples and local communities, while ensuring gender balance, and considering the Short-term Action Plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols;⁵

(c) To further enhance cooperation and collaboration in biosafety with relevant organizations.

⁵ Conference of the Parties decision XIII/23, annex.