



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Distr.
GENERAL

CBD/CP/MOP/DEC/VIII/2
15 December 2016

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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 7

DECISION ADOPTED BY THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

VIII/2. Operation and activities of the Biosafety Clearing-House

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

Welcoming the Web Strategy for the Convention and its Protocols,¹

Welcoming also the cooperative activities among the focal points in Asia which were undertaken during the intersessional period in partnership among the Republic of Korea, China and the United Nations Environment Programme in an effort to enhance compliance with the Protocol,

1. *Notes with concern* the decline in the number of records related to capacity-building activities that were registered in the Biosafety Clearing-House, and urges Parties and invites other Governments and relevant organizations to register in the Biosafety Clearing-House their capacity-building activities, projects and opportunities;

2. *Recalls* 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;

3. *Reminds* 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;

4. *Urges* 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;

¹ See UNEP/CBD/COP/13/14/Add.1

(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;

5. *Invites* 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;

6. *Invites* the governing bodies of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to strengthen the collaboration between their biosafety databases and the Biosafety Clearing-House;

7. *Requests* the Global Environment Facility to continue to make funds available in support of activities related to the Biosafety Clearing-House;

8. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To continue collaborating with other biosafety databases and platforms, including those of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development;

(b) To continue making improvements to the central portal of the Biosafety Clearing-House, taking into account the needs of its users with a view to facilitating the submission of information and processes for validation by the respective Biosafety Clearing-House focal points, as well as following up on the recommendations of the Informal Advisory Committee on the Biosafety Clearing-House at its tenth meeting;

(c) To carry out the full migration of the Biosafety Clearing-House to its new platform with a view to enabling the Informal Advisory Committee on the Biosafety Clearing-House to test the new platform before its face-to-face meeting in 2018 while ensuring that information continues to be available to users of the Biosafety Clearing-House during the migration process and to send to the Biosafety Clearing-House focal points a chronogram detailing the migration and follow up processes;

(d) To continue organizing regional online discussions, and use other means of information exchange, for focal points through the Biosafety Clearing-House to facilitate integration and synergisms;

(e) To promote collaboration among Biosafety Clearing-House focal points at the regional and subregional levels;

(f) To create additional tools for facilitating statistical analysis of information contained in the Biosafety Clearing-House with a view to enabling Parties to analyse and better use the information;

(g) To create a portal through the Biosafety Clearing-House whereby tools, guidance and experiences gained in the contained use of living modified organisms could be compiled and easily retrieved;

(h) To develop joint modalities of operation between the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, the Biosafety Clearing-House and the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting, the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety at their ninth meeting and the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol at their third meeting with a view to enhancing coherence in the implementation and operation of the common elements of all components of the central clearing-house mechanism of the Convention.
