



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-
MOP/Bur/2008/1/2
12 May 2008

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY
Bonn, 11 May 2008

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA
PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY HELD IN BONN ON SUNDAY, 11 MAY 2008**

INTRODUCTION

1. The meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP) Bureau was held on 11 May 2008 at the Maritim Hotel, Bonn, site of the Fourth Meeting of the COP-MOP. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Raymundo Rocha Magno, Ambassador of Brazil to the International Civil Aviation Organization and International organizations sitting in Montreal, representing the President of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The following Bureau members attended the meeting:

Mr. Deon Stewart (Bahamas)
Mr. Karma Nyedrup (Bhutan)
Mrs. Mary Fosi Mbantenkhu (Cameroon)
Ms. Dubravka Stepic, representing Ms. Andrea Stefan (Croatia)
Ms. Reynaldo A. Alvarez Morales (Mexico)
Mr. Ositadinma Anaedu (Nigeria)
Ms. Beate Berglund Ekeberg (Norway)
Mr. Israel Pastor (Spain)

Dr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine) and Mr. Abdul Hakim Aulaiah (Yemen) were not able to attend.

2. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Jochen Flasbarth and Mr. Wolfgang Koehler of Germany (as host of the the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the fourth meeting of the COP-MOP), Ms. Jimena Nieto and Mr. Rene Lefeber, Co-Chairs of the Open-ended *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Liability and Redress in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, as well as the Executive Secretary of the Convention, Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Mr. Charles Gbedemah, the Head of the Biosafety Division of the Secretariat, and Mr. Worku Damena Yifru of the Secretariat.

ITEM 1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The meeting was opened by Mr. Magno on behalf of the President of the Conference of the Parties, Her Excellency Ms. Marina Silva, Minister of Environment of Brazil. He then advised the Bureau that, as is customary practice in international meetings, the Presidency would cede the chairmanship of the COP-MOP 4 meeting to Germany, as host Government, but Brazil would continue to chair the meetings of the Bureau.

4. The Executive Secretary welcomed the Bureau members to Bonn. He expressed sincere gratitude to the Government of Brazil for their excellent chairmanship of the COP 8 Bureau, and expressed deep appreciation to the Government of Germany for the excellent preparations for COP-MOP/4 and COP 9. He also extended his appreciation to the Co-chairs of the Open-ended *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Liability and Redress for their efforts in the process over the past 5 years in negotiating a liability and redress regime for the Protocol.

5. Echoing the sentiments expressed by the Executive Secretary, the representative of Nigeria expressed heartfelt thanks to the Government of Germany for the excellent preparations for COP-MOP 4.

6. The Chair then moved to the agenda items for consideration.

ITEM 2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

7. The Bureau then considered adoption of the following agenda as proposed by the Executive Secretary following consultation with the Presidency:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Organization and conduct of the fourth meeting of the COP-MOP
4. The work of the Open-Ended *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Liability and Redress
5. Issues related to the Compliance Committee
6. Regional Consultations
7. Side Events
8. Schedule of Bureau meetings during COP-MOP/4 week
9. Other matters
10. Closure of the meeting

The representative of Spain, speaking on behalf of the European Union, requested the inclusion of 2 additional points in the agenda:

- 1) Budget: the member reminded the Bureau that annex 1 of decision COP VIII/10 applied *mutatis mutandis* to the COP-MOP and therefore, requested that all policies identified in working groups of the meeting with budget implications be costed and forwarded to the Budget Contact Group,
- 2) GEF Midterm Resource Allocation Framework Review: the member requested that this item be discussed under COP-MOP 4, Agenda Item 7.

With respect to the issue regarding the Budget, the Executive Secretary informed Bureau members that the audit of the Convention had just been completed and that the UNEP accounts would only be closed on 21 May. The Executive Secretary further noted that in applying annex 1 of decision COP VIII/10, the first cost estimate could only start emerging on Wednesday 14 May.

With respect to the GEF Midterm Resource Allocation Framework Review, the Executive Secretary recommended that since the GEF CEO will participate in the High Level Segment of the COP, the Bureau could consider a meeting with her at that time to present the view of the Parties on the Resource Allocation Framework as it relates to Biosafety.

The representative of Germany underlined the need to put in place a mechanism that would allow Parties to easily see where funds are allocated and for what purposes.

With that, the Bureau adopted the agenda.

ITEM 3 ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE COP-MOP

8. The agenda of the fourth meeting of the COP-MOP and its annotations was presented to the Bureau for its consideration.
9. The Secretariat advised the Bureau that COP-MOP 4 would conduct its work in plenary and two working group meetings. The Secretariat advised the Bureau that Ms. Beate Berglund Ekeberg of Norway had been approached to chair Working Group I, and Mr. Reynaldo Ariel Alvarez Morales of Mexico Working Group II. The Secretariat further pointed out that Mr. Ositadinma Anaedu, Bureau member from Nigeria, had been approached to undertake the chairmanship of the Contact Group on the Budget. All were amenable to taking on these responsibilities. The Bureau then agreed to the proposals.
10. With respect to Rapporteur for COP-MOP 4, the Secretariat advised that Ms. Mary Fosi Mbantenkhu of Cameroon had been approached. However, as she was at that point absent from the meeting of the Bureau, the members invited Mr. Deon Stewart of the Bahamas to act as Rapporteur.
11. Lastly, the Bureau was informed that Mr. Karma Nyedrup, Bureau member from Bhutan, had accepted to examine delegates' credentials and provide an interim report to Plenary on this matter.

ITEM 4 WORK OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP OF LEGAL AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS ON LIABILITY AND REDRESS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

12. The Co-Chairs of the Open-ended *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Legal and Technical Experts on Liability and Redress in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety provided some reflections on the process, highlighting the fact that it had passed through two meetings of a technical expert's group and 5 meetings of the Open-ended *Ad Hoc* Working Group. They underlined the fact that all the resources generated to support the process were gradually becoming limited and therefore, they advised that the process be brought to an end as soon as possible.
13. That said, the Co-Chairs expressed satisfaction with results achieved. The negotiating text, originally over 80 pages, had been reduced to 15 pages containing 3 major objectives as a result of the meetings of the Friends of the Co-Chairs (FoCC) held in Bonn from 7-10 May, 2008. The Parties had arrived at an agreed definition of 'damage' to biodiversity, as well as a definition of the 'administrative approach', with important corporate responsibility demonstrated. In their view, the Co-chairs were of the opinion that positive results could be expected by the end of COP-MOP/4.
14. The Co-chairs then proposed to the Bureau the setting up of a Contact Group on the first day of the COP-MOP to continue with the process in a timely manner.
15. The Secretariat underlined the continuity of the process and recommended the maintenance of the structure and co-chairmanship of the existing FoCC on L&R for the sake of consistency. The Bureau agreed to this suggestion and noted that the Friends of the Co-Chairs format be converted into a Contact Group format.
16. In his agreement to the structure and format of the Contact Group, the representative of Germany indicated that, in their role as Chairperson of the COP-MOP, they would recommend to the COP-MOP to establish such a Contact Group. The representative of Norway underlined that the Contact Group would require as much time as possible to conduct its work and stressed that the Co-chairs be provided the necessary flexibility to realise the objectives of the process.
17. The Co-chairs assured the Bureau that the report presented to COP-MOP/4, UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/4/11, reflected the state of negotiations at the end of the Fifth meeting of the Open-ended *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Liability and Redress that had met in Cartagena from 12-19 March. They informed the Bureau that the FoCC had reduced the negotiated text further and it was their hope that this would be the text from which the body would conduct their ongoing negotiations.

18. The Chair reminded the Bureau that the mandate for the FoCC had come from the *OEAdHoc*WG, not the COP-MOP and therefore, that procedure would require that the Co-chairs begin the work of the Contact Group with the Cartagena report contained in UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/4/11.

ITEM 5 ISSUES RELATED TO THE COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE

19. The Secretariat advised the Bureau that the Chairman of the Compliance Committee would provide a report to the Plenary. Two items, in particular, required the consideration of the Bureau: a) the allocation of sub-items related to the rules of procedure and compliance contained in other agenda items of the COP-MOP; and, b) the election of Compliance Committee members, specifically the recommendation to ensure two members per region, along with election of an alternate.

ITEM 6 REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

20. The Bureau was advised that the African Union was hosting a preparatory meeting on the 10th and 11th May for delegates from Africa. They were also informed that arrangements had been made, as has been the practice, to provide meeting rooms for regional consultations to take place over the course of the week of COP-MOP 4.

ITEM 7 SIDE EVENTS

21. The Bureau was advised that a total of 44 side events had been registered for COP-MOP 4. It was agreed that a list of the side events would be circulated to Bureau members.

ITEM 8 SCHEDULE OF BUREAU MEETINGS DURING COP-MOP/4 WEEK

22. The Bureau agreed to meet each evening at 18:00, with the exception of Monday 12 May.

ITEM 9 OTHER MATTERS

23. No other matters were raised.

ITEM 10 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

24. The meeting was closed by the Chair at 17:00.
