



**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/8. Subsidiary bodies (Article 30)

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

Recalling decision BS-VI/9 and *taking note* of the experience gained and lessons learned in handling scientific and technical issues through the establishment of ad hoc technical expert groups and online discussion forums, such as the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management, the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the Second Assessment and Review of the Protocol and the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Socio-Economic Considerations,

Considering that, at the current stage, there is no need to establish an open-ended subsidiary body for scientific and technical advice under the Protocol,

1. *Decides* to continue establishing, as needed and subject to the availability of funds, ad hoc technical expert groups with specific mandates to provide advice on one or more scientific and technical issues;
 2. *Also decides* to take into account the experience gained and lessons learned from ad hoc technical expert groups when establishing similar expert groups in the future, including the convening, as appropriate, of open-ended online expert forums prior to any face-to-face meetings of future ad hoc technical expert groups;
 3. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to provide adequate funds to enable the ad hoc technical expert groups to carry out their mandates effectively.
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