



## 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 11

### DECISION ADOPTED BY THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

#### VIII/12. Risk assessment and risk management

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

1. *Acknowledges* the work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment and Risk Management, having completed its mandate, as well as the Online Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management;<sup>1</sup>
2. *Takes note* of the voluntary Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms as the outcome of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group with input from the Online Forum;<sup>2</sup>
3. *Invites* interested Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to take the Guidance into account as a voluntary tool to assist in conducting risk assessment in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol while acknowledging that other guidance documents and national approaches can also assist in conducting risk assessment in accordance with the Protocol;
4. *Invites* interested Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations that have used the Guidance and/or other guidance documents and national approaches to share an assessment of their applicability and usefulness through the Biosafety Clearing-House;
5. *Invites* the Global Environment Facility to continue to provide funding for a global capacity-building project and other projects on risk assessment and risk management;
6. *Invites* Parties to submit to the Executive Secretary (a) information on their needs and priorities for further guidance on specific topics of risk assessment of living modified organisms, (b) proposals on criteria, including the technical justification, that may facilitate the selection of topics for the development of further guidance, and (c) views on perceived gaps in existing guidance materials;

<sup>1</sup> See UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/8/8.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

7. *Decides* to extend the Online Forum on Risk Assessment and Risk Management to exchange experiences on risk assessment, provide information and views on, and perceived gaps in existing guidance materials, and proposals to address any gaps identified;

8. *Invites* the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol to appoint a lead moderator for the online discussions and reporting on discussions, for the next intersessional period, ensuring regional rotation;

9. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To assist the lead moderator of the online discussions referred to in paragraph 7 above in preparing a report of the online discussions and submitting it for peer review by the Online Forum before final presentation;

(b) To compile the views referred to in paragraph 6 above;

(c) To submit the results of (a) and (b) above to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;

10. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to review the information provided and to recommend a way forward to address the needs, priorities and gaps identified by Parties for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its ninth meeting, including the possible establishment of a new ad hoc technical expert group, with the understanding that new guidance proposals should only be presented upon approval by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol;

11. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to support, upon invitation by a Party, regional and subregional capacity-building activities on risk assessment of living modified organisms.

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