



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-
MOP4/Bur/2009/2/3
8 November 2009

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SERVING AS
THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY
Montreal, Canada
8 November 2009

**MINUTES OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY SERVING AS THE MEETING OF PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA
PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY HELD IN MONTREAL, CANADA
ON SUNDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2009**

INTRODUCTION

1. The second meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was held on 8 November 2009 in Montreal, Canada, on the eve of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing (WGABS-8). The meeting was chaired by Mr. Wolfgang Koehler, Head of Unit, Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, representing the President of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the fourth Meeting of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. He was assisted by Mr. Volker Matzeit, German Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection.

2. The following Bureau members attended the meeting:

Ms. Somaly Chan (Cambodia)
Mr. Ricardo Torres Carrasco (Colombia)
Ms. Snezana Prokic (Serbia)
Prof. James Seyani (Malawi)
Dr. Abdelbagi Mukhtar Ali (Sudan)
Mr. Robert Lamb (Switzerland)
Ms. Lorraine Cox (Bahamas)
Ms. Åsa Norrman (Sweden)
Dr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine)

3. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Kazuaki Hoshino of the Ministry of Environment of Japan, and Ms. Tokuko Nabeshima, as ex-officio members of the Bureau, as the host of the next session of the Conference of the Parties, serving as the fifth Meeting of

Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The Secretariat was represented by the Executive Secretary of the Convention, Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Charles Gbedemah, Head, Biosafety Division, and Ms. Nandhini Iyer Krishna (CBD liaison office in New York).

ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The President extended a warm welcome to all participants of the Bureau meeting.

ITEM 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Bureau then adopted the agenda, as outlined below:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Progress of work of the AHTEG on the risk assessment and risk management
4. Preparations towards the meeting of the group of the Friends of the Co Chairs of legal and technical experts on Liability and Redress, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 8-12 February 2010.
5. Status of the assessment and review process and the draft Strategic Plan of the Protocol
6. Status of the voluntary contributions in support of approved activities of the Cartagena Protocol for the biennium 2009-2010
7. Preparations towards COP-MOP/5, 11-15 October 2010, Nagoya, Japan
8. Date and Venue of the third and fourth meetings of the COP-MOP4 Bureau
9. Any other matters
10. Closure of the meeting

ITEM 3: PROGRESS OF WORK OF THE AHTEG ON RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

6. The Secretariat introduced this item stating that the Programme of Work (POW) as agreed at the Berlin meeting was on track, with regard to activities funded from the core budget but this was not the case with regard to activities dependent on voluntary funding, such as the organisation of training workshops on risk assessment, among other issues.

7. A detailed presentation was then made on the effective use of online discussion and real-time fora on the Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) as part of the process of the AHTEG on risk assessment and management. There was unanimous appreciation in the Bureau for the efficient use of the online tools and their success in the AHTEG process.

8. The following points were made in the discussions that ensued: the need for risk assessment and risk management training, particularly for developing countries; the use of the online tools for capacity building and training purposes and the commendation for the cost effectiveness of the e tools. The Bureau was also informed of the dates of the second AHTEG as 19-23 April 2010 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

9. In his summary, the President underscored the tribute paid by the Bureau for the work of the Secretariat and the success of the online tools despite considerable scepticism when the idea was initially put forward at the earlier Bureau meeting.

ITEM 4: PREPARATIONS TOWARDS THE MEETING OF THE GROUP OF FRIENDS OF THE CO CHAIRS OF LEGAL AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS ON LIABILITY AND REDRESS, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 8-12 February 2010.

10. The Secretariat briefed the Bureau on the first meeting of the Group of the Friends of the Co-Chairs Concerning Liability and Redress in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in Mexico in February 2009. There was a shared understanding now that a legally binding instrument would be developed on Liability and Redress. The next meeting would take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in February 2010. On the status of funding, the Bureau was informed that the funding currently available will be enough for the Friend of the Co-Chairs from developing countries but not enough for their advisors as planned during COP-MOP/4. There was therefore the need for further funds in support of the meeting.

11. The representative of Japan (Kazuaki Hoshino) noted that Japan had provided the contributions to the Secretariat as pledged at the COP-MOP/4 for the Kuala Lumpur meeting is the sum of 140,000 US\$.

12. There was appreciation from the Bureau for this generous contribution from Japan.

13. The President summarised the discussions under this item by thanking Japan for their generous contribution. He further noted that the COP-MOP should plan towards additional funding should the need arise for another meeting of the Group of Friends of the Co-Chairs back to back with MOP5 in Nagoya to conclude the business before the COP-MOP. While travel costs would not be an issue, some funds would be needed to cover other costs. The amount is estimated at between US\$ 40,000- 50,000.

ITEM 5: STATUS OF THE ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW PROCESS AND THE DRAFT THE STRATEGIC PLAN

14. The Secretariat introduced the draft Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol, 2011-2020 and noted that it was an evolving document. The Secretariat also introduced the outline for the expected report of the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Protocol. The Secretariat expressed its appreciation to Sweden for providing the funding for a consultant and indicated that the report was expected to be ready by the middle of the November, 2009. On the process for the development of the draft Strategic Plan for the Protocol, the Bureau was informed that only 4 submissions (EU, Thailand, Japan and Norway) had been received as at the close of six month submission period on 31 March 2009. The draft Strategic Plan before the Bureau was therefore derived from the 4 submissions, the national reports and the decisions and programmes of work since COP-MOP/1. It was noted that a consultative process in the run up to MOP5 would be useful.

15. The President noted that the points and issues covered in the draft Strategic Plan could trigger detailed discussions, thus it was therefore necessary that a preparatory and consultative process be initiated prior to COP-MOP/5 to avoid any difficult negotiations at the MOP/5. The President suggested that an online discussion forum be held with national focal points in addition to giving the national focal point sometime to react to the draft document before the online forum. He further noted that the output of these two processes could serve as the basis for discussions at the COP/MOP/5.

16. In the ensuring discussions, the following points were raised: the usefulness of eliciting further views from not only Parties to the Protocol but also Parties to the Convention; the usefulness of a further notification to all the Parties for comments with a clarification of the process of the online discussion forum.

17. In his summary, the President noted that the Secretariat would use inputs from the consultative process through the notification and online forum process to revise the draft Strategic Plan. The following timelines were also agreed on: 1 December 2009: notifications to the Parties for comments; 15 January 2010: end of submission of comments; 1 – 28 February 2010; discussion of updated draft Strategic Plan to the online discussion forum. It was further agreed the updated draft document after the discussion forum would be presented to the Bureau for its consideration at a special session. The Bureau members also agreed to use the current draft document as a basis to encourage their respective regional constituencies to provide comments.

ITEM 6: STATUS OF THE VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF APPROVED ACTIVITIES OF THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL FOR THE BIENNIUM 2009-2010

18. The Secretariat noted that to date, it has received only about 30% of the expected voluntary contributions which has resulted in the delay in executing a number of activities. It was therefore necessary to appeal for the necessary additional funds.

19. The Bureau noted that it would be prudent to prioritise activities under the voluntary contributions and then appeal for the necessary funds.

20. In response to a question as to cost implications of the activities envisaged in the draft Strategic Plan, the Secretariat clarified that these cost could only be derived when the draft Strategic Plan is further fragmented into a logical framework, which is not possible in the Plan current stage. In addition, there was also the need to derive a programme of work before financial implications could become clearer.

21. The Executive Secretary at this stage informed the Bureau that the COP Bureau had approved that a joint letter from the Executive Director (UNEP), the President and the Executive Secretary of the CBD be sent to donors indicating priorities for voluntary contributions, particularly for the funds for participation of developing countries in the COP. The activities/priorities of the Protocol could also be included if the MOP Bureau so decided. He suggested that the COP-MOP President and the Executive Secretary could also additionally send a letter to donors for voluntary contributions for activities under the Protocol which was agreed upon.

ITEM 7: PREPARATIONS TOWARDS COP-MOP/5, 11-15 OCTOBER 2010, NAGOYA, JAPAN

22. The President indicated that, as has become traditional, Germany was ready to handover the Presidency to the host Government, Japan, at the beginning of MOP5.

23. The representative of Japan, (Kazuaki Hoshino) expressed his Government's readiness to take on the responsibility. He further stated that the Government of Japan was in the process of designating the Presidency of COP-MOP to either the Ministry of Environment or Agriculture.

24. In the discussions the ensuing discussions, it was noted that it would be important to mobilise voluntary contributions for the participation of developing countries in the COP-MOP. For this purpose it was stressed that a letter to donors would be useful.

ITEM 8: DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRD AND FOURTH MEETINGS OF THE COP-MOP 4 BUREAU

25. The President informed the Bureau that the next meeting of the Bureau was scheduled for 3 May 2010 in Nairobi, Kenya and another on the eve of MOP5. He however that there was a perception that the Nairobi meeting may be too late to effectively review the draft Strategic Plan, it was therefore necessary that other options are considered.

26. The Executive Secretary indicated that one option could be to consider convening a MOP Bureau meeting back to back with ABSWG9 (in March) in Colombia. Confirmation on the dates and venue was expected shortly on this.

ITEM 9: ANY OTHER MATTERS

27. No specific issues were taken up under this item.

ITEM 10: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

28. The meeting was closed at 1500.
