



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

Ninth meeting

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17-29 November 2018

Agenda item 18

DECISION ADOPTED BY THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

9/14. Socio-economic considerations (Article 26)

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

Recalling decisions [BS-VI/13](#), [BS-VII/13](#) and [CP-VIII/13](#),

Recalling that, in accordance with Article 26, paragraph 1, Parties, in reaching a decision on import under the Protocol or under its domestic measures implementing the Protocol, may take into account, consistent with their international obligations, socio-economic considerations arising from the impact of living modified organisms on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, especially with regard to the value of biological diversity to indigenous and local communities,

Acknowledging that nothing contained in the voluntary “Guidance on the Assessment of Socio-Economic Considerations in the Context of Article 26 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety” can be interpreted or used to support non-tariff barriers to trade, or to justify breaches of international human rights law obligations, in particular of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities,

Recognizing that trade and environment agreements should be mutually supportive with a view to achieving sustainable development,

Emphasizing that the Protocol shall not be interpreted as implying a change in the rights and obligations of a Party under any existing international agreements,

Understanding that the above recital is not intended to subordinate the Protocol to other international agreements,

Recalling that the Guidance is intended to be used on a voluntary basis,

1. *Takes note* of the “Guidance on the Assessment of Socio-Economic Considerations in the Context of Article 26 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety”;¹

2. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to use and submit preliminary experiences using the voluntary Guidance, as well as examples of methodologies and applications of socio-economic considerations in the light of the elements of the voluntary Guidance, preferably in the form of case studies;

¹ As contained in CBD/CP/MOP/9/10, annex.

3. *Establishes* an online forum on socio-economic considerations through the Biosafety Clearing-House;
4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to (a) compile the information submitted in response to paragraph 2 above, (b) organize moderated discussions of the online forum to comment on and add views to review the compilation of submissions, (c) select, in consultation with the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, two rapporteurs to summarize the work of the moderated online discussions and prepare a report;
5. *Extends* the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Socio-economic Considerations to review the outcomes of the online forum in accordance with the terms of reference in the annex, and *requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to convene a face-to-face meeting of the Group;
6. *Decides* to consider, at its tenth meeting, the outcomes of the process outlined above.

Annex

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON
SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS**

The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Socio-economic Considerations shall:

- (a) Review the submissions in response to paragraph 2 of decision CP-9/14 and the outcomes of the moderated online discussions and use this information to supplement the voluntary Guidance, by indicating for which stage in the assessment process, as outlined in the voluntary Guidance, the information might be relevant;
 - (b) Based on this review, prepare a report on its work and submit it for consideration by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol at its tenth meeting.
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