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Organización  
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Unidas  
para la  
Agricultura  
y la  
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## COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

### Second Session

Rome, 26 – 30 March 2007

### Report of the Convention on Biological Diversity

### Agenda Item 8.2 of the Provisional Agenda

1. A report of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to the Second Session of the CPM prepared by the CBD Secretariat is provided in Annex 1.

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**Report of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
to the Second Session of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures**

**Introduction**

1. Collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) follows from decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Biosafety Protocol (COP-MOP), and the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM). A memorandum of cooperation formalized this cooperation in February 2004.
2. The COP has acknowledged the role of the IPPC in promoting the objectives of the Convention, in particular on the issue of invasive alien species, and invited the IPPC to consider incorporating biodiversity-related criteria in the revision or elaboration of standards. The CPM has developed revised International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures that take into account biodiversity and biosafety considerations, which is an important example of collaboration that promotes coherence between the two regimes at international and national levels. In addition, the ICPM, at its seventh meeting, adopted a detailed decision regarding cooperation with the CBD and invasive alien species.
3. At its seventh meeting, the COP requested the Executive Secretary to develop a joint work plan with the secretariat of the IPPC (COP Decision VII/13). Following this request, a joint meeting of the secretariats, including the ICPM Chair, was held in Montreal in May 2004. It was agreed that the action items from that meeting would form the initial basis for a joint work plan. A second meeting was held in October 2005, this time involving representatives of the respective bureaus in order to discuss particular issues related to potential mechanisms for future collaboration. A third meeting was held by teleconference in August 2006. The result of this latest meeting was a revised joint work plan, which is reported on below.
4. The previous reports of the CBD to ICPM-6 and ICPM-7 reported on the relevant decisions<sup>1</sup> of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP-7), held in February 2004, and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP/MOP-1), also held in February 2004, as well as on the implementation of aspects of those decisions. The report to CPM-1 provided an update on activities and also reported on the results of the COP/MOP-2 meeting, held in 2005.
5. This report summarizes relevant outcomes of COP-8 and COP/MOP-3 meetings which were held in March 2006 in Brazil, and provides an update on progress with respect to the programmes of work under the CBD and its Biosafety Protocol which are most relevant to the IPPC.

**Joint Work Plan**

6. The updated joint work plan covers a number of areas where collaboration is envisaged, including:

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<sup>1</sup> All decisions can be found at [www.biodiv.org](http://www.biodiv.org)

- Promoting collaboration at national levels among NPPOs and agencies responsible for biodiversity-related issues
- Addressing gaps in the international regulatory framework for invasive alien species
- Development of standards of mutual interest under the IPPC (e.g., revision of ISPM No 2), and development of guidance/standards under the CBD and the Biosafety Protocol
- Terminology
- Capacity-building and technical assistance
- Mechanisms for sharing information through the International Phytosanitary Portal, the clearing house mechanism of the CBD, and the Biosafety Clearing-House
- Other specific matters arising from decisions of the CPM or COP

7. The secretariats agreed to meet by teleconference in approximately May/June 2007, following CPM-2.

### **Invasive Alien Species**

8. In Decision VIII/27 on invasive alien species, available on the CBD website at <http://www.biodiv.org/decisions/default.aspx>, the COP adopted a detailed decision on addressing gaps in the international regulatory framework for invasive alien species. The decision made specific suggestions for addressing various pathways for invasions including *inter alia* civil air transport; military activities; emergency relief and aid activities; international development assistance; scientific research; tourism; trade in pets, aquarium species, live bait, live food and plant seeds; biocontrol agents; and ex-situ animal breeding programmes. Several elements of the decision are directly relevant to the IPPC. Among these in particular are the following:

#### **9. Civil Air Transport:**

Para 36. *Encourages* the secretariats of the International Civil Aviation Organization and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, in addressing the issue of invasive alien species, to coordinate with other relevant bodies, including the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Plant Protection Convention;

Para 37. *Encourages* Parties and other Governments to promote collaboration at the national level among relevant agencies responsible for matters of invasive alien species and/or civil air transport (e.g., civil aviation, transport, customs, trade, plant protection, environment) so that all relevant issues are raised through national participation in the International Civil Aviation Organization;

#### **10. Biocontrol Agents:**

Para 55. *Urges* Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to evaluate and take appropriate measures (e.g., develop guidance or codes of practice regarding the trade and use of biocontrol agents) at national, regional and global levels to address the potential risks of biocontrol agents as invasive alien species, taking into account the work of relevant international bodies and agreements such as the International Plant Protection Convention, as well as the experience of countries at national level

11. General actions to address invasive alien species:

Para 60. *Encourages* Parties, other Governments, and regional bodies to develop procedures and/or controls to ensure that cross-border impacts of potentially invasive alien species are considered as part of national and regional decision-making processes, taking into account already existing procedures and controls for invasive alien species that are pests of plants under the International Plant Protection Convention;

12. International standards on invasive alien species. The paragraph below mandates further consultation on whether and how to address the lack of international standards covering invasive alien species, in particular animals, that are not pests of plants under the IPPC. In this regard, the CBD secretariat has contacted IPPC, OIE, WTO and FAO. At the suggestion of WTO, the secretariat consulted directly with the members of the SPS Committee in an informal session in October 2006. The consultations are ongoing, and the secretariat will present the results to the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in early 2008.

Para 14. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to consult with relevant international bodies and instruments, such as the International Plant Protection Convention, the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the World Trade Organization, taking into account the observations of the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/4), regarding whether and how to address the lack of international standards covering invasive alien species, in particular animals, that are not pests of plants under the International Plant Protection Convention, and to report on the results of these consultations for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth meeting;

13. In September 2006 the secretariat released an internet portal on invasive alien species, which is available at <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/cross-cutting/alien/default.shtml>. This portal implements many past COP decisions regarding information-sharing, and includes a section on terminology which has received inputs from the IPPC Technical Panel for the Glossary.

14. There will be an in-depth review of work under the CBD on invasive alien species at COP-9. Governments and organizations are invited to submit any information on their efforts to address invasive alien species, and to implement the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties, no later than 19 November 2007. For more information see Notification 2006-116 from the secretariat, available at <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/notifications/2006/ntf-2006-116-ias-en.pdf>.

### **Global Strategy for Plant Conservation**

15. The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) was adopted in 2002 in decision VI/9. It will be reviewed in-depth at COP-9 in 2008. In preparation for the in-depth review, the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Subsidiary Body will consider the GSPC in July 2007. Governments are invited to provide information on their efforts to implement the GSPC, as well as to provide information on any relevant national strategies and contact information on their national focal point for the GSPC. Details are available in Notification 2006-085, at <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/notifications/2006/ntf-2006-085-gspc-en.pdf>. National Plant Protection Organizations wishing to provide inputs into the review of the GSPC should do so through their respective CBD National Focal Points (see <http://www.biodiv.org/world/map.aspx> for contact details).

### **Biosafety Protocol**

16. The third meeting of the COP/MOP took place in Montreal from 13 to 17 March 2006.

17. In decision BS-III/11 on risk assessment and risk management, available at <http://www.biodiv.org/decisions/default.aspx?m=MOP-03&lg=0>, the COP/MOP addressed a number of issues. Most importantly, it highlighted the potential need for additional guidance related to risk assessment of living modified organisms (e.g., for particular types of organisms, uses, risks, or receiving environments), and decided to consider this issue further at its fourth meeting which is scheduled for May 2008. With respect to information-sharing, the COP/MOP invited governments and organizations to provide the Biosafety Clearing-House with links to additional guidance, databases and information sources relevant to risk assessment and risk management.

18. Finally, the decision on risk assessment and risk management also addressed capacity-building, and made numerous recommendations to governments and organizations – one of these calls for collaboration between FAO and the CBD in order to promote networking and interlinkages between experts in risk assessment of living modified organisms and experts in other relevant fields of risk assessment and risk management (e.g., plant health, animal health, food safety). To help implement this decision, experts in the biosafety roster of experts have been invited to join the Plant Health Risk Assessment List Serve.

19. In the earlier decision BS-II/9 on risk assessment and risk management, the COP/MOP called for regional workshops on capacity-building and exchange of experiences related to risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms. These workshops are tentatively scheduled to be held during 2007.

20. In decision BS-III/9 the COP/MOP considered paragraph 3 of Article 18 of the Protocol concerning the need for and modalities of developing standards with regard to identification, handling, packaging and transport practices for transboundary movements of living modified organisms. Governments and organizations were invited “to submit ... views and information on (i) the adequacy of existing rules and standards for identification, handling, packaging and transport of goods and substances to address concerns related to living modified organisms that are subject to transboundary movement, and (ii) on gaps that may exist that may justify a need to develop new rules or standards, or to call upon relevant international bodies to modify or expand their existing rules and standards, as appropriate.” Submissions must come via CBD National Focal Points no later than six months prior to COP/MOP4, which is scheduled for May 2008.

21. Other issues that were considered at COP/MOP-3 and which may be of interest relate to information-sharing and the Biosafety Clearing-House; capacity-building; and handling, transport, packaging and identification (Article 18). All of these decisions are available on the CBD web pages at <http://www.biodiv.org/decisions/default.aspx?m=MOP-03&lg=0>.