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Dear Co-chairs,

In its decision [CP-9/7](#), the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol requested the Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to, among other things, contribute to the development of the relevant elements of the biosafety component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in consultation with the co-chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

The Liaison Group met from 22 to 25 October 2019. The Group stressed the importance of having a biosafety target in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and noted the need for the target to be simple and easy to understand, as well as “SMART”. Following the guidance provided on goals, targets, indicators, baselines and monitoring frameworks for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in document CBD/SBSTTA/23/2/Add.4, the Group discussed text for a biosafety component, including a target, sub-targets and indicators. The suggested text is presented in the attachment for your consideration in the preparation of the zero draft of the global biodiversity framework for the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group.

Considering the reference to biosafety in the Convention, in particular in its Articles 8(g) and 19, the Group was of the view that the biosafety target should not be limited to issues under the Cartagena Protocol but should address biosafety more broadly. Furthermore, some members recognized the global nature of the biodiversity framework and that the framework was not intended to only serve the Convention. It was also highlighted, however, that a specific reference to the Cartagena Protocol in the biodiversity framework would be useful as the Protocol is key to achieving biosafety.

The Group discussed different terms and definitions used in the Convention and the Protocol, in particular the terms ‘biotechnology’ and ‘modern biotechnology’ and how the use of these terms could change the scope of the biosafety component. The Group noted that the biosafety component should also address synthetic biology and other emerging genetic technologies, especially considering the timespan of the framework and the rapid developments in technology. In this light, the Group noted that referring to the term ‘living modified organism’ might not cover all aspects of these different technologies.

The Group also noted that the biosafety component should be ambitious and so agreed to refer to ‘all Parties’ in formulating the targets and sub-targets.

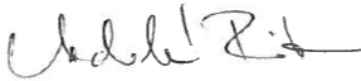
Finally, recognizing the importance of resource mobilization and capacity-building in achieving the biosafety target, the Group suggested that biosafety also be included in the “enabling conditions” of the zero draft of the global biodiversity framework.

The Liaison Group understands that the precise formulation of the target and sub-targets may need to be adjusted in the development of the draft global biodiversity framework to ensure consistency throughout the framework.

Kindly be advised that the Group will meet again from 20 to 23 April 2020, following the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and will be able to provide additional feedback, as required, to the development of the biosafety component.

We thank you in advance for your kind attention and remain available to discuss further with you, as needed.

Yours sincerely,



Rita Andorkó



Georgina Catacora-Vargas

Co-chairs of the Liaison Group on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Attachment

BIOSAFETY COMPONENT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK AS SUGGESTED BY THE LIAISON GROUP ON THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL

Target: By 2030, all Parties have put in place biosafety measures to prevent potential adverse impacts of biotechnology¹ on biodiversity.

Sub-target 1: All Parties have adopted and implemented the necessary biosafety legal, administrative and other measures

Indicators:

- 1.a. Percentage of Parties that have the necessary biosafety legal and administrative measures in place
- 1.b. Percentage of Parties that implement their biosafety measures
- 1.c. Percentage of Parties that have the necessary measures and means for detection and identification of products of biotechnology
- 1.d. Percentage of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety implementing the relevant provisions of the Protocol

Sub-target 2: All Parties carry out scientifically sound risk assessments and manage the identified risks

Indicators:

- 2.a. Percentage of Parties that carry out scientifically sound risk assessments to support biosafety decision-making
- 2.b. Percentage of Parties that establish and, as applicable, implement risk management measures
- 2.c. Percentage of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety implementing the relevant provisions of the Protocol

Sub-target 3: All Parties share and have access to biosafety-related information for the safe use of the products of biotechnology

Indicators:

- 3.a. Percentage of Parties with mechanisms to facilitate the sharing of and access to information on biosafety
- 3.b. Percentage of Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety implementing the relevant provisions of the Protocol

Sub-target 4: All Parties have systems in place for restoration and compensation for damage to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity

Indicators:

- 4.a. Percentage of Parties with legal and technical measures for restoration and compensation
- 4.b. Percentage of Parties to the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol implementing the relevant provisions of the Supplementary Protocol

¹ The term ‘biotechnology’ is used here as a placeholder for ‘modern biotechnology’ and other possible related processes under the Convention on Biological Diversity.