Kunming - Montreal
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Overview of the joint CBD/Aarhus Convention pocket guide on access to information and public participation regarding living modified organisms (LMOs)/ genetically modified organisms (GMOs)

31 October 2024, Cali, Colombia

Background:

The two Secretariats' collaborative efforts support:

- Implementation of the **Aarhus Convention's GMO amendment (AC open for accession by any UN member state. Guinea-Bissau acceded to the Aarhus Convention on 4 April 2023)**
- Set in action the Implementation and Capacity-building Action Plan for the Cartagena Protoocl on Biosafety / **Promote Article 23 of the Protocol / Target 17 and 22 of GBF**

Article 23 requires Parties to:

- Promote public participation regarding LMOs and ensure public participation encompass access to information on LMOs imported
- Consult the public in the decision-making process regarding LMOs and avail the results of such decisions to the public and inform the public about the means of public access to the Biosafety Clearing-House

Background:

BS-II/13 (first time Aarhus Convention as a decision)

- 11. *Invites* Parties, other States and concerned **relevant international bodies to explore and maximize opportunities for cooperation** in the promotion of public awareness, education and participation concerning living modified organisms through the frameworks provided by related national and international instruments, **in particular the Aarhus Convention** on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

BS-II/6 cooperation

- 1 (d) To **intensify cooperation with the Aarhus Convention** secretariat in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on matters of public awareness and participation

Joint CBD/Aarhus Convention pocket guide on access to information and public participation regarding LMOs (Pocket guide)

Launched October 2024

English, Spanish and French version (Other UN languages will be available shortly)

The pocket guide has been developed as a resource **for Governments and other stakeholders to strengthen their capacities** in ensuring effective access to information and fostering meaningful public participation in decision-making related to LMOs/GMOs

Key messages:

Pocket guide:

- Informal tool to help Governments and stakeholders strengthen their capacities for effective access to information and public participation in decision-making processes regarding LMOs/GMOs
- Prepared based on experiences shared in joint CBD/Aarhus Convention round tables and training materials
- Content: benefits, systematic challenges and priority areas

Next joint CBD/Aarhus Convention round table 2027. Open to all stakeholders!

Thank You!



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