

Under the auspices of the Aarhus Convention

**International expert meeting on good practices regarding access to information,
public participation and access to justice with respect to
genetically modified organisms (GMOs)**

19-20 May 2008, Cologne, Germany

Provisional programme

Monday, 19 May 2008

10:00 **Welcome by the Chair**

10:10 **The Aarhus Convention, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and
their requirements regarding access to information, public
participation and access to justice with respect to GMOs**

Representatives of the Aarhus Convention and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety will be invited to describe their respective instrument's requirements regarding access to information, public participation and access to justice with respect to GMOs. Following the presentations, there will be an opportunity for questions and comments from participants.

10:40 **Access to information, including labeling, with respect to genetically
modified organisms**

*Identification of the most pressing needs and challenges regarding
access to information*

Plenary presentations

Speakers may include representatives from government, civil society, academia or industry. The speakers will each be invited to speak for up to six minutes, followed by an opportunity for questions and comments from participants.

11.05 *Coffee*

11:20 Small group discussions

The meeting will divide into three discussion groups to discuss the most pressing needs and challenges regarding access to information. Each discussion group will be led by a moderator from government or academia.

12:20 Reports back to the plenary by the moderators of the small group discussions.

12:35 ***Exchanges of good practices on addressing the most pressing needs and challenges regarding access to information***

Plenary presentations

Speakers may include representatives from government, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, academia or industry. The speakers will each be invited to speak for up to six minutes, followed by an opportunity for questions and comments from participants.

13:00 *Lunch*

15:00 Small group discussions

The meeting will divide into three discussion groups to discuss good practices on addressing the most pressing needs and challenges regarding access to information. Each discussion group will be led by a moderator from government or academia.

16:15 Reports back to the plenary by the moderators of the small group discussions.

16:30 *Coffee break*

16:45 **Public participation with respect to decisions on genetically modified organisms (deliberate release, placing on the market)**

Identification of the most pressing needs and challenges regarding public participation

Plenary presentations

Speakers may include representatives from government, civil society, academia or industry. The speakers will each be invited to speak for up to six minutes, followed by an opportunity for questions and comments from participants.

17:15 Small group discussions

The meeting will divide into three discussion groups to discuss the most pressing needs and challenges regarding public participation. Each discussion group will be led by a moderator from government or academia.

18:30 *End of first day*

Tuesday, 20 May 2008

- 09:00 Reports back to the plenary by the moderators of the small group discussions.
- 09:15 ***Exchanges of good practices on addressing the most pressing needs and challenges regarding public participation***
- Plenary presentations
- Speakers may include representatives from government, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, academia or industry. The speakers will each be invited to speak for up to six minutes, followed by an opportunity for questions and comments from participants.
- 09:45 Small group discussions
- The meeting will divide into three discussion groups to discuss good practices on addressing the most pressing needs and challenges regarding public participation. Each discussion group will be led by a moderator from government or academia.
- 11:05 *Coffee break*
- 11:20 Reports back to the plenary by the moderators of the small group discussions.
- 11:40 **Access to justice with respect to genetically modified organisms**
- Identification of the most pressing needs and challenges regarding access to justice***
- Plenary presentations
- Speakers may include representatives from government, civil society, academia or industry. The speakers will each be invited to speak for up to six minutes, followed by an opportunity for questions and comments from participants.
- 12:00 *Lunch*
- 14:00 Small group discussions
- The meeting will divide into three discussion groups to discuss the most pressing needs and challenges regarding access to justice. Each discussion group will be led by a moderator from government or academia.
- 14:50 Reports back to the plenary by the moderators of the small group discussions.

15:00 ***Exchanges of good practices on addressing the most pressing needs and challenges regarding access to justice***

Plenary presentations

Speakers may include representatives from government, civil society, academia or industry. The speakers will each be invited to speak for up to six minutes, followed by an opportunity for questions and comments from participants.

15:20 Small group discussions

The meeting will divide into three discussion groups to discuss good practices on addressing the most pressing needs and challenges regarding access to justice. Each discussion group will be led by a moderator from government or academia.

15:50 Reports back to the plenary by the moderators of the small group discussions.

16:00 *Coffee break*

16:15 **Future priorities and challenges**

Panel discussion

Panelists will include prominent experts from a variety of perspectives, including governments, international organizations, NGOs, academia or business. Each panelist will be invited to speak for up to seven minutes, followed by a discussion amongst the panelists and questions and comments from participants.

16:55 Evaluation of meeting by participants (through written questionnaire).

17:00 The Chair will close the meeting.