



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE



**Joint Aarhus Convention/Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety workshop on public awareness,  
access to information and public participation regarding living modified organisms/genetically  
modified organisms  
8-9 October 2010, Nagoya, Japan**

**DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

<b>Friday, 8 October 2010</b>	
9.30 am – 10.00 am	<b>1. Opening of the workshop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome by Chair</li> <li>Review of recommendations of 2008 Cologne workshop</li> <li>3 minute written exercise for participants on greatest needs and challenges regarding access to information, public awareness and participation</li> </ul>
10.00 am – 11.00 am	<b>2. Overview of legal framework on public awareness, access to information and participation regarding LMOs/GMOs</b> <i>(15 minutes per presentation with short discussion after each presentation)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of Article 23 of the Cartagena Protocol and introduction of the Cartagena Protocol's programme of work on public awareness, education and participation.</li> <li>Overview of article 6, paragraph 11 and the GMO Amendment to the Aarhus Convention.</li> <li>Experiences in outreach and awareness-raising, including better/more efficient use of the clearing-house mechanisms under the Cartagena Protocol and the Aarhus Convention</li> </ul>
11.00 am – 11.15 am	<b>Coffee break</b>

11.15 am – 1.00 pm	<p><b>3(a) Public awareness and access to information: good practices, needs and challenges</b></p> <p>(i) Presentations: <i>(15 minute presentations with short discussion after each presentation)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to information regarding the use of LMOs/GMOs, including access to scientific information and risk assessment and potential conflicts with intellectual property rights.</li> <li>• Access to information regarding international trade in LMOs/GMOs, including certification and labeling of LMO/GMO products: main challenges and good practices.</li> <li>• Experiences with developing and implementing national mechanisms, frameworks and systems regarding public awareness and education and access to information regarding LMOs/GMOs.</li> </ul> <p>(ii) Open discussion on public awareness and access to information regarding LMOs/GMOs, addressing the following:<sup>1</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greatest needs and challenges</li> <li>• Good practices and lessons learnt</li> <li>• Possible activities/modalities for implementation of the Cartagena Protocol's programme of work</li> <li>• Possible points for concrete cooperation between the Aarhus Convention and the Cartagena Protocol with regard to (a) their Parties, (b) secretariats and (c) stakeholders.</li> </ul>
1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>
2.00 pm – 4.00 pm	<p><b>3(a) Public awareness and access to information: good practices, needs and challenges (cont'd)</b></p> <p>(iii) Small group discussions to identify concrete recommendations regarding the issues discussed.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Participants will also have an opportunity to make short statements from the floor (maximum 5 minutes).

4.00 pm – 4.15 pm	<b>Coffee break</b>
4.15 pm – 5.30 pm	<p><b>3(b) Public awareness and access to information – the way forward</b></p> <p>(i) Reports back to the plenary by moderators of small groups</p> <p>(ii) Open discussion in plenary aimed at identifying concrete recommendations for future action, regarding:<sup>2</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of national focal points and key stakeholders in implementing article 23 of the Cartagena Protocol and access to information regarding GMOs under article 4 and 5 of the Aarhus Convention, including the role of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety national focal points</li> <li>○ Aarhus Convention national focal points</li> <li>○ Environmental and other civil society organizations</li> <li>○ Industry</li> <li>○ Scientists and academia</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Concrete issues of collaboration in the Aarhus Convention workplan and the Cartagena draft programme of work, including envisioned outcomes, activities and timeframes.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further possibilities for synergy, coordination and collaboration regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Actions aimed at improving public awareness, information and education, including through the use of the Aarhus Convention's Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Principles of the Convention in International Forums</li> <li>○ Capacity-building activities</li> <li>○ The Aarhus Convention/Cartagena Protocol strategic plans</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5.30pm	<b><i>End of first day</i></b>

<sup>2</sup> Participants will also have an opportunity to make short statements from the floor (maximum 5 minutes).

<b>Saturday, 9 October 2010</b>	
9.00 am – 10.45 am	<p><b>4(a) Public participation: good practices, needs and challenges</b></p> <p>(i) Presentations: <i>(15 minute per presentation with short discussion after each presentation)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National experiences in implementing the Aarhus Convention's GMO amendment and public participation under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including public participation in LMO/GMO decision making at local, national and EU (or other similar organization) level.</li> <li>Public participation in LMO/GMO risk assessment procedures, including the public's role (including environmental NGOs and other civil society organizations) in evaluating (i) LMO/GMO related socio-economic risks and (ii) other characteristics which might be different from environmental impact assessment procedures regarding non-LMO/GMO decisions.</li> <li>Implementation and enforcement of LMO/GMO-related laws, in particular the main challenges and the role of the public with regard to these.</li> </ul> <p>(ii) Open discussion on public participation regarding LMOs/GMOs, addressing the following:<sup>3</sup></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greatest needs and challenges</li> <li>Good practices and lessons learnt</li> <li>Possible activities/modalities for implementation of the Cartagena Protocol's programme of work</li> <li>Possible points for concrete cooperation between the Aarhus Convention and the Cartagena Protocol with regard to (a) their Parties, (b) secretariats and (c) stakeholders.</li> </ul>
10.45 am – 11.00 am	<b>Coffee break</b>
11.00 am – 1.00 pm	<p><b>4(a) Public participation: good practices, needs and challenges (cont'd)</b></p> <p>(iii) Presentation: <i>(15 minute presentation followed by short discussion, addressing:)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Different types of public participation in LMO/GMO decisions, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public hearings</li> <li>Electronic information tools, e.g. e-conferences, electronic consultations and networks.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>(iv) Mock "public hearing" regarding an LMO/GMO decision.</p>
1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	<b>Lunch</b>

<sup>3</sup> Participants will also have an opportunity to make short statements from the floor (maximum 5 minutes).

2.00 pm – 3.30 pm	<b>4(a) Public participation: good practices, needs and challenges (cont'd)</b>  (v) Small group discussions to identify concrete recommendations regarding the issues discussed.
3.30 pm – 3.45 pm	<b>Coffee break</b>
3.45 pm – 5.10 pm	<b>4(b) Public participation – the way forward</b>  (i) Reports back to the plenary by the moderators of the small groups  (ii) Open discussion in plenary aimed at identifying concrete recommendations for future action, regarding: <sup>4</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of national focal points and key stakeholders in implementing article 23 of the Cartagena Protocol and article 6, paragraph 11 of the GMO Amendment to the Aarhus Convention, including the role of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety national focal points</li> <li>○ Aarhus Convention national focal points</li> <li>○ Environmental and other civil society organizations</li> <li>○ Industry, scientists and academia</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The practical meaning of article 6 bis, paragraph 2, of the Aarhus Convention's Almaty amendment, which requires the Aarhus Convention and Cartagena Protocol to be “mutually supportive and complementary”.</li> <li>• Concrete issues of collaboration in future Aarhus Convention work programmes and the Cartagena draft programme of work, including envisioned outcomes, activities and timeframes.</li> <li>• Further possibilities for synergy, coordination and collaboration regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Actions aimed at improving public participation, including through the use of the Aarhus Convention's Almaty Guidelines on Promoting the Principles of the Convention in International Forums</li> <li>○ Capacity-building activities</li> <li>○ The Aarhus Convention/Cartagena Protocol strategic plans</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5.10 pm – 5.30 pm	<b>5. Closure of the workshop: Chair's concluding remarks</b>
5.30 pm	<b><i>Close of workshop</i></b>

<sup>4</sup> Participants will also have an opportunity to make short statements from the floor (maximum 5 minutes).