

KEY ISSUES FOR COP-MOP6

LIM LI CHING

ADVANCING THE UNDERSTANDING OF BIOSAFETY
28-29 SEPTEMBER 2012, HYDERABAD, INDIA

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RISK ASSESSMENT

- Risk assessment is the central obligation of the Cartagena Protocol
- Annex III provides general guidance; COP-MOP4 (2008) requested specific guidance
- AHTEG Guidance on Risk Assessment of LMOs
 - 'Roadmap' for risk assessment of LMOs
 - Specific guidance on LM abiotic stress-tolerant plants, stacked plants, LM mosquitoes, LM trees
 - Guidance on monitoring of LMOs released into the environment
- Subject to numerous rounds of peer review and testing but opposed by the US and industry
- COP-MOP6 - endorse Guidance, integrate it in risk assessment training and capacity building, and extend AHTEG mandate

SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

- Contentious issue since the Protocol negotiations, with weak implementation
- Developing countries point to potentially adverse socio-economic implications of LMOs
- Article 26 establishes the right of Parties to take socio-economic considerations into account when reaching a decision on LMO import
- Numerous efforts have now taken the discussion further and Parties have expressed the need for further guidance
- COP-MOP6 – establish an ad hoc technical experts group to further progress work on socio-economic considerations under the Protocol

UNINTENTIONAL TRANSBOUNDARY MOVEMENT

- Contamination incidents occur with alarming frequency
 - A total of 366 known contamination cases and illegal releases have occurred since 2005, many involving unapproved LMOs
- Article 17 requires Parties to notify affected and potentially affected States, when it knows of an occurrence under its jurisdiction that leads, or may lead to unintentional transboundary movement
- Consultations with affected States to determine appropriate responses and initiate action, including emergency measures
- But very few Parties have received information on or have notified contamination incidents
- COP-MOP6 - development of guidance that facilitates implementation and assists Parties to prevent, detect and take measures to respond to unintentional releases

HANDLING, TRANSPORT, PACKAGING AND IDENTIFICATION

- For LMOs destined for contained use, and intended for intentional introduction into the environment and any other LMOs within the scope of the Protocol
 - Use of commercial invoice vs. stand-alone document
 - Reference to BCH and use of LMO Quick-links
- International standards
 - Recognition of Cartagena Protocol standards in the list of international standards, guidelines or recommendations applied by WTO Members under the SPS Agreement

INDEPENDENT BIOSAFETY RESEARCH TO SUPPORT CPB IMPLEMENTATION

- Risk assessment and risk management
 - Methodologies and approaches
 - Risk assessments and evaluations
 - Monitoring and risk management
- Socioeconomic considerations
- Sampling and detection techniques and methodologies
- Liability and redress and Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol
- Financial resources for research, capacity building and other activities

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THANK YOU!

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