
Regulatory Cooperation in Africa

7 November 2025

**6th International Workshop on Regulatory Approaches for
Agricultural Applications of Animal Biotechnologies**





Rationale for regional cooperation

A continental vision (e.g., Agenda 2063; AU Biosafety Strategy; STISA-2034)

Harmonized instruments facilitate trade and innovation, and foster public trust

Shared challenges require common and collective solutions

Resource optimization (e.g., pooled expertise, infrastructure, funding)

Boosting innovation ecosystems and supporting capacity strengthening

Example as a continental vision

– the 6 Pillars of the African Strategy on Biosafety



Capacity Building and Preparedness for Negotiations



Awareness Raising and Biosafety Information Exchange



Establishment and Strengthening of Institutional Frameworks



Policy and Legal Frameworks



International Cooperation



Sustainability Mechanism

Challenges and opportunities for cooperation



Multilateral
Environment
Agreements



UNEP-
GEF/Implementation of
biosafety systems



Policies of the Regional
Economic
Communities



OECD as a global policy
forum

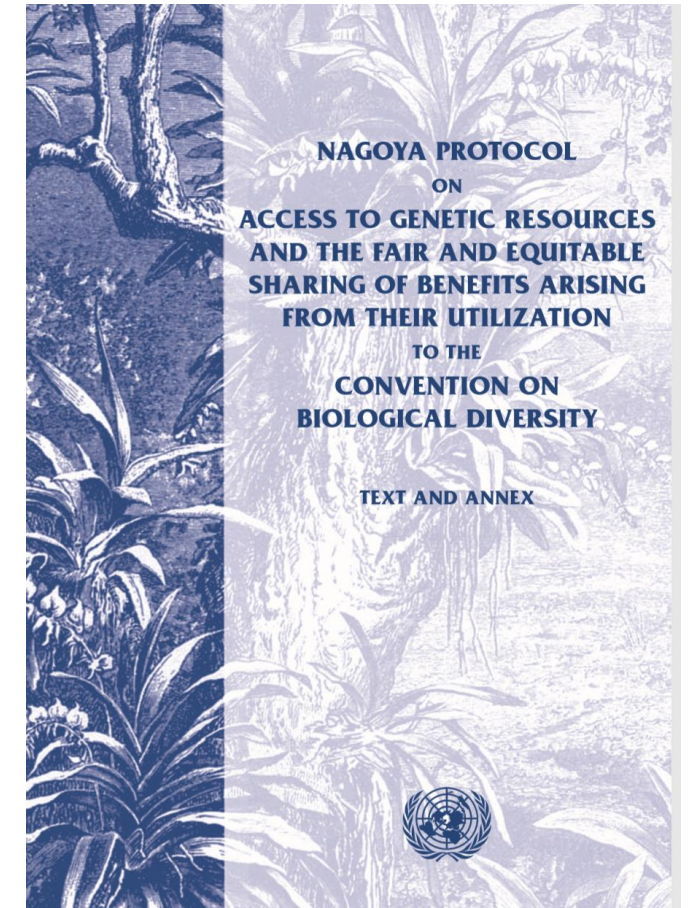
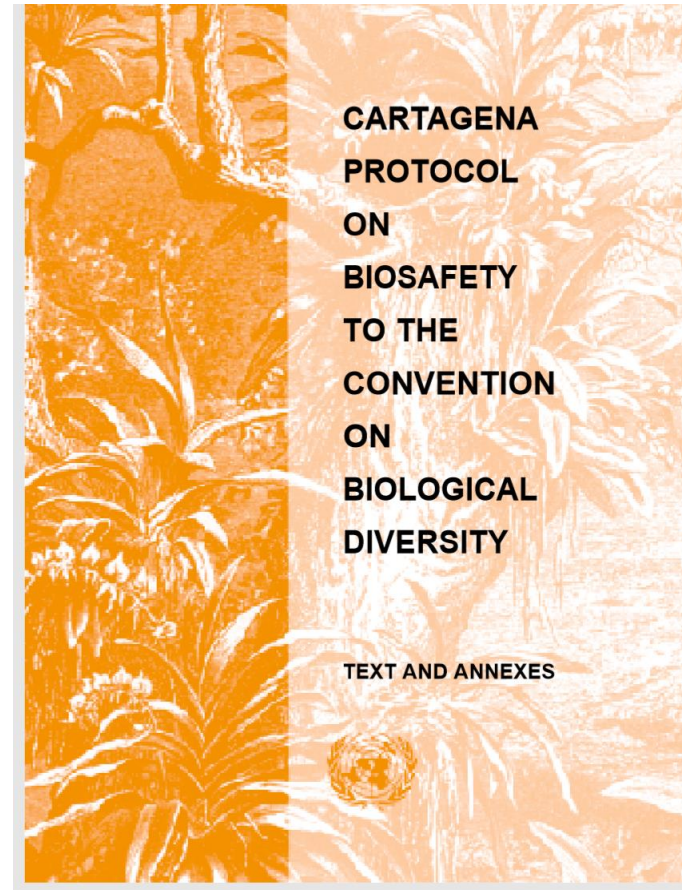
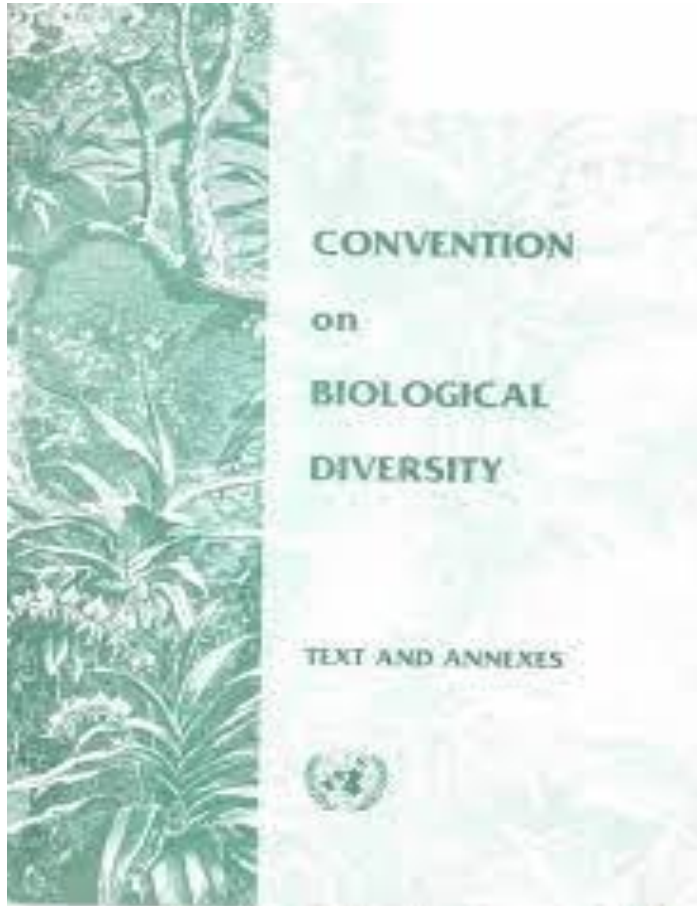
Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

Are international agreements, between and among countries on how to jointly address environmental issues that are of transboundary or cross-border nature

Provide the international legal basis and serve as a global response mechanism for cooperation by countries and regions

Complement national legislation and bilateral or regional agreements.

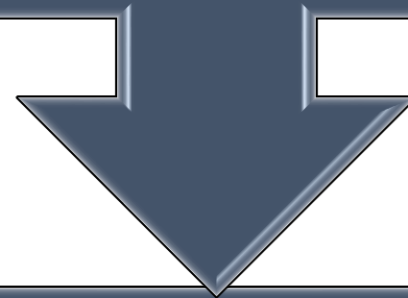
One such MEA is the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols



COP/COP-MOP: Africa's participation in meetings and processes

The African Group of Negotiators (AGN) on Biodiversity

Established by decision CL/761
(XXII) of the 22nd session of the
African Union Executive Council



Mandated to articulate African

Perspectives

Priorities

**Common
positions**

**During all
negotiations**

Date	Agenda items to be considered in plenary							
Monday, 21 October (morning session)	COP	CP	NP					
	1	1	1	Opening of the meeting				
	2	2	2	Organizational matters (agenda, election of officers, organization of work)				
	3	3	3	Report on credentials of representatives of Parties				
	4			Pending issues				
	5			Date and venue of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties				
	6	4	4	Reports of intersessional and regional preparatory meetings				
		5	5	Report of the Compliance Committee				
	7	6	6	Administration of the Convention and Protocols and budget for the trust funds				
8			Progress on the preparation of targets and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans by Parties in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework					
Date	Agenda items to be considered by Working Group I				Agenda items to be considered by Working Group II			
	COP	CP	NP		COP	CP	NP	
Monday, 21 October (afternoon session)	9		14	Digital sequence information on genetic resources	17			Mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors
	10			Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review	18			Diverse values of biodiversity
	11	7	7	Resource mobilization and financial mechanism	20			Marine and coastal biodiversity, and island biodiversity
	12			Capacity-building and development, technical and scientific cooperation, clearing-house mechanism and knowledge management	21			Invasive alien species
					22			Biodiversity and health
	14			Implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions	23			Plant conservation
	26			Liability and redress (Article 14, paragraph 2)	24			Synthetic biology
				25			Biodiversity and climate change	

Date	Agenda items		Working group I	Agenda items		Working group II
Wednesday 7 Dec. Afternoon (3-6pm)	8A 8B			Review of progress in the implementation of the Convention	8	Monitoring & reporting*
	9A		13	Post-2020 global biodiversity framework		10 Monitoring & reporting*
	9B			Monitoring framework for the post-2020 GBF	9	Assessment & review of effectiveness & evaluation of Strategic Plan 2011-2020
	9C 13C			Communication strategy Communication	11	Operation & activities of the Biosafety Clearing-House*
	9D			Gender plan of action		9 Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-house*
	10A			Development of a new POW & institutional arrangements on Article 8(j) & related provisions	14	Risk assessment
	10B			In-depth dialogue on thematic areas and cross-cutting issues	27	Synthetic biology
	10C			Recommendations from the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues to the CBD	20A	Marine and coastal biodiversity (EBSAs)
	11		14	Digital sequence information	20B	Marine and coastal biodiversity (Conservation & sustainable use)
	12A			Resource mobilization	15	Detection & identification of LMOs*
	12B			Financial mechanism		
	12C			Capacity building		

16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP 16)

#	Agenda item	Lead country(ies)	Supporting country(ies)
7	Administration of the Convention and budget for the trust funds	South Africa, Namibia, Eswatini	Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Rwanda
8	Progress on the preparation of targets and updating of NBSAPs by Parties in line with the K-M GBF	Ethiopia, Uganda	Zimbabwe, Malawi, Togo, Ghana Madagascar, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Morocco, Mali, Lesotho, Zambia, Tanzania, Eswatini, Benin, Nigeria, Rwanda, Comoros, Mozambique, DRC, Côte d'Ivoire, Burundi, Angola, Liberia, Carbo Verde, Algeria

COP 16 = 22 agenda items

CP-MOP 11 = 9 agenda items

NP-MOP 5 = 11 agenda items

Coordinated the briefing session for Ministers on 28 Oct 2024

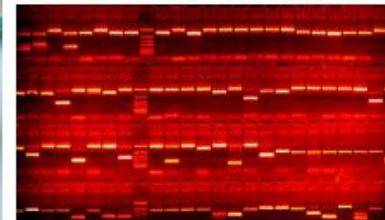


Réunion des Ministres de l'environnement Africains en marge du Segment de haut niveau de la COP-16

Example of implications of non-response to an intercessional process

Secretariat
of the Convention
on Biological
Diversity

BIOSAFETY TECHNICAL SERIES 05

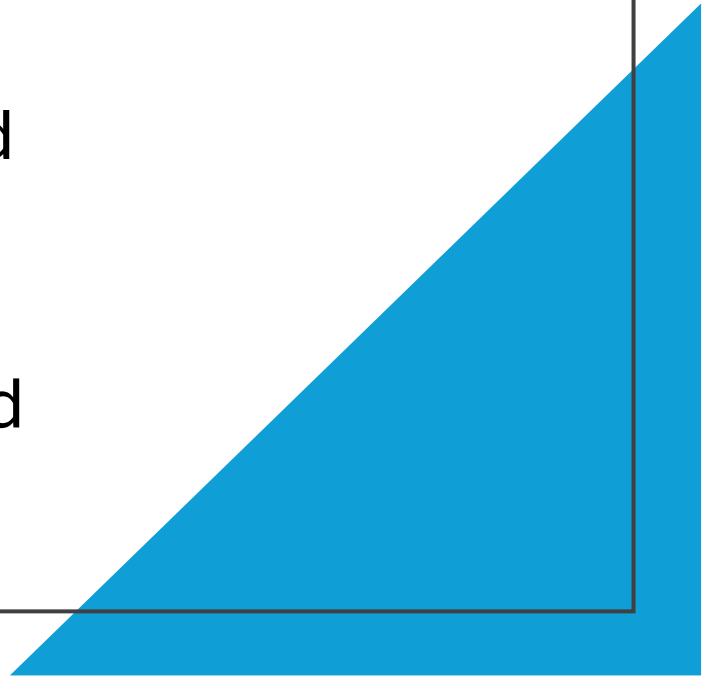


**Training Manual on the Detection
and Identification of Living Modified
Organisms in the Context of the
Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**

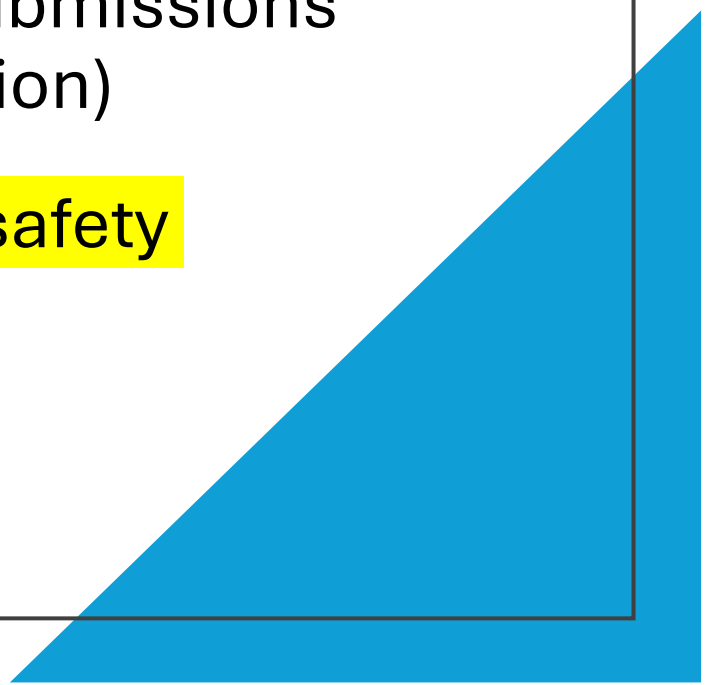
Background

In Decision CP-10/11, COP MOP

- invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit information on their experience with
 - new detection techniques,
 - detecting newly developed and unauthorized LMOs and
 - developing reference materials
 - ongoing collaborations involving national and regional laboratories



Overview of the submission of information on the detection and identification of LMOs

- The Secretariat invited Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit relevant information related to the detection and identification of LMOs: 5 submissions received (4 from Parties and 1 from an organization)
 - No submission suggested a need to update Biosafety Technical Series 05
 - Submissions summarized in SBSTTA/26/6 II
- 
- A large blue right-angled triangle is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, pointing towards the top right.



Summary of the online discussions of the Network of Laboratories for Detection and Identification of LMOs

- National and regional laboratory collaborations:
 - Several examples from **Africa**, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe were shared
- The networks of laboratories had been successful at:
 - cost reduction
 - knowledge-sharing and addressing gaps in capacity
 - harmonizing and standardizing methodologies

Summary of the online discussions of the Network of Laboratories for Detection and Identification of LMOs

Several capacity-building needs and potential solutions were shared during the online discussions

- The needs tended to be related to:
 - methodologies and techniques
 - infrastructure
 - consumables
 - legal agreements

- Highlighted as potential solutions
 - workshops
 - the development of technical materials
 - improved inter-laboratory collaboration
 - knowledge-sharing and cost-reductions
 - increased financing

V. Recommendations

29. In view of the information contained in the present document, the Subsidiary Body may wish to conclude that *Biosafety Technical Series 05* is still relevant and useful to the detection and identification of living modified organisms, and that there is no need to update the training manual at this time.

30. Furthermore, the Subsidiary Body may wish to recommend that, at its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

Recalling decisions [CP-10/11](#) and [CP-10/7](#) of 10 December 2022 and the need for capacity-building activities on new detection techniques and on detecting and identifying unauthorized living modified organisms,

Reiterating the importance of the field of detection and identification of living modified organisms for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and its relevance and applicability to other fields,

Recognizing that newly developed and unauthorized living modified organisms pose challenges for the analysis of living modified organisms,

Example of opportunities at RECs level: Guiding principles for the harmonized ECOWAS Regulations

—

- Article 5: Harmonization
- Article 6: Recognition of International Standards
- Article 7: Mutual Recognition
- Article 8: Equivalence and the Principle of National Processing
- Article 9: Free Movement of Products and Equivalence
- Article 12 : Prior Information and Notification
- Article 16: Access to Information and Public Participation

Several instances of application of DT concept

COUNTRY	Crop	Trait	Sources of Data	Any other relevant information
MALAWI	Maize	Insect resistance	ISAAA, FAO, EU food safety	This is for maize CFT to be done. The reviewer used the data to advise the NBRC to accept doing the CFT
	Cotton	Insect resistance	USA	<i>Bt</i> cotton toxicity data, gene flow
GHANA	Cowpea	Pod borer resistance	Nigeria, Burkina Faso	Supplemented data generated in Ghana
	Cotton	Insect resistance	Burkina Faso	Bt cotton evaluation in Ghana started with multilocation trials without on-station confined field trials. Relied on data from Burkina Faso on-station confined field trials
NIGERIA	Cowpea	Pod borer resistance	Australia, USA	Safety data generated in Australia and the US was reviewed alongside local field trial data
	Cotton	Insect resistance	Burkina Faso	Reviewed safety data generated in Burkina Faso

Working Party on the Harmonisation of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology

PROVISIONAL DRAFT AGENDA: 39th Meeting of the Working Party on the
Harmonisation of Regulatory Oversight in Biotechnology (WP-HROB)

24-26 March 2025
Paris, France

This provisional draft agenda will be updated and completed at a later stage.
Please note that the third day of the meeting (Wednesday 26 March 2025) will be devoted to the Joint
Session with the Working Party for the Safety of Novel Foods and Feeds.

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JT03555481

39th Meeting of the OECD WP-HROB: Days 1 and 2

Monday 24 March 2025 **9:30-17:00 (Paris time)**

Tuesday 25 March 2025 **9:30-16:45 (Paris time)**

OBJECTIVES of the meeting Days 1 and 2:

-) Exchange information on latest developments in biotechnology
-) Discuss consensus documents on maize, mosquitoes and microalgae, and agree on next steps towards declassification
-) Discuss potential extension of the unique identifier system to transgenic animals, and agree on next steps
-) Identify future potential activities for the WP-HROB

Some keys to effective cooperation

- Building better relationships through regular, candid and transparent communication
- Aiming for win-win outcomes
- Making choices based on what is right and not who is right
- Generating options and not ultimatums
- Valuing minority or dissenting opinion

Unclassified

English - Or. E

28 September 2016

ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE
CHEMICALS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Considerations for Collaborative Work on the Safety Assessments of Foods and Feeds
Derived from rDNA Plants – Consensus Document

Series on the Safety of Novel Foods and Feeds
No. 37

Policy Framework for Applications of
Genome Editing in African Agriculture

Adopting agreed common technical standards

Concluding thoughts

- Enhance AU-led Coordination and Oversight
- Foster Robust Technical Collaboration
- Broaden Access to Regional Biotech R&D Centers
- Advance Public Awareness and Education
- Utilize Digital Platforms for Biosafety Surveillance
- Promote South-South Knowledge Exchange
- Scale Up Investment in Research and Regulatory Infrastructure
- Refocus Animal Biotechnology on Agricultural Priorities
- Reprioritize agricultural applications for animal biotechnology



Thank you



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