

## Second Regular National Report on the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

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### Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

12. Is your country a Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB)?

Yes

### Article 2 – General provisions

15. Has your country introduced the necessary legal, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the Protocol?

A domestic regulatory framework is fully in place

16. Which specific instruments are in place for the implementation of your national biosafety framework?

One or more national biosafety laws  
One or more national biosafety regulations  
One or more sets of biosafety guidelines  
Other laws, regulations or guidelines that indirectly apply to biosafety

17. Has your country established a mechanism for the budgetary allocations of funds for the operation of its national biosafety framework?

Yes

18. Does your country have permanent staff to administer functions directly related to the national biosafety framework?

Yes

19. If you answered Yes to question 18, how many permanent staff members are in place whose functions are directly related to the national biosafety framework?

More than 10

20. Has your country's biosafety framework / laws / regulations / guidelines been submitted to the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)?

Partially

21. Here you may provide further details on the implementation of Article 2 in your country:  
In 1998 according to the Resolution of the Council of Ministers No.96, the National Co-ordination Biosafety Centre (NCBC) was established as a National Centre responsible for the contacts with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and capacity building process to participate in Biosafety Clearing House (BCH) activity. The first phase of capacity building process was completed by 2008. NCBC proceeded with its work on information exchange with the CBD Secretariat and within the framework of BCH too. The National Biosafety System was established in Belarus by 2006. The most important result of The National Biosafety System creation was adoption of the Law on Safety of Gene Engineering Activity, No.96, January 9, 2006. In 2010 NCBC jointly with the Management of the Institute of Genetics and Cytology at NAS of Belarus prepared technical documents on creation of a trial field for transgenic plants to test them under natural climatic conditions with their first release into the environment. Over the period from 2008 to 2010 NCBC sent 26 official responses to inquiries of the Bodies of State management and organizations of RB; prepared 5 analytical notes and materials; submitted 4 proposals and issued 4 Expert Reports on the content of GM components (GNC/GMO) in foodstuffs and seeds. Within the framework of the UNEP-GEF project phase I for participating in BCH, two Republican seminars "Biosafety Clearing House on Biosafety and Current State and Prospects of the National Biosafety System Development in RB" were held. NCBC took part in organizing and holding 11 International and 14 Republican seminars and conferences on biosafety and biodiversity problems. The Laboratory for GMO Detection (LDGMO) at NCBC of IGC has performed the works in sum of 924806 thousand roubles (\$308,269.00) on detecting the

GMC content in foodstuffs and feeds; participated in some inter-laboratory checking of results obtained by the laboratories for GMO detection accredited in Belarus and took part in 9 exhibitions.

#### **Article 5 – Pharmaceuticals**

22. Does your country regulate the transboundary movement, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) which are pharmaceuticals?

Yes

23. If you answered Yes to question 22, has this information been submitted to the BCH?

Partially

24. Here you may provide further details on the implementation of Article 5 in your country:  
The Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, March 25, 2010, No.434 on approval of Technical Regulations in the Republic of Belarus "Veterinary Preparations Safety" (TR 2010/021/BY) as well as "Changes and Supplements: the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, October 22, 2010, No.1552" was adopted (National Register of Regulations of the Republic of Belarus, 2010, No.261, 5/32726), C2100155.

#### **Article 6 – Transit and Contained use**

25. Does your country regulate the transit of LMOs?

Yes

26. Does your country regulate the contained use of LMOs?

Yes

27. If you answered Yes to questions 25 or 26, has this information been submitted to the BCH?

Yes

28. Here you may provide further details on the implementation of Article 6 in your country:  
The Article 6 is executed according to the Resolution of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection in the Republic of Belarus, August 17, 2006 "On Demands of Safety to Closed Systems in Performing Works of the First Risk Level of Genetic Engineering Activity" No.50 (National Register of Regulations of the Republic of Belarus, 01.09.2006, No.144, 8/14952).

#### **Articles 7 to 10 – Advance Informed Agreement (AIA) and intentional introduction of LMOs into the environment**

29. Has your country adopted law(s) / regulations / administrative measures for the operation of the AIA procedure of the Protocol?

Yes

30. Has your country adopted a domestic regulatory framework consistent with the Protocol regarding the transboundary movement of LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment?

Yes

31. Has your country established a mechanism for taking decisions regarding first intentional transboundary movements of LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment?

Yes

32. If you answered Yes to question 31, does the mechanism also apply to cases of intentional introduction of LMOs into the environment that were not subject to transboundary movement?

Yes

33. Has your country established a mechanism for monitoring potential effects of LMOs that are released into the environment?

Yes

34. Does your country have the capacity to detect and identify LMOs?

Yes

35. Has your country established legal requirements for exporters under its jurisdiction to notify in writing the competent national authority of the Party of import prior to the intentional transboundary movement of an LMO that falls within the scope of the AIA procedure?

Yes

36. Has your country established legal requirements for the accuracy of information contained in the notification?

Yes

37. Has your country ever received an application / notification regarding intentional transboundary movements of LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment?

No

38. Has your country ever taken a decision on an application / notification regarding intentional transboundary movements of LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment?

No

41. In the current reporting period, how many applications/notifications has your country received regarding intentional transboundary movements of LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment?

None

42. In the current reporting period, how many decisions has your country taken regarding intentional transboundary movements of LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment?

None

50. Here you may provide further details on the implementation of Articles 7-10 in your country, including measures in case of lack of scientific certainty on potential adverse effects of LMOs for intentional introduction to the environment:

Stable contacts are planned to be made between the National Co-ordination Biosafety Centre (NCBC) at IGC of NAS of Belarus and the State Customs Committee (SCC), its subdivisions fulfilling examination of documents for goods of animal and plant origin as well as for microorganisms during their transfer through the boundary of the Customs Union. NCBC offers practical assistance to SCC for identification of LMO/GMO. The question is discussed on inclusion of the educational biosafety course in the training program for officers of customs services which is worked out by the specialists of the National Co-ordinations Biosafety Centre at the Institute of Genetics and Cytology of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus.

**Article 11 – Procedure for living modified organisms intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (LMOs-FFP)**

51. Has your country adopted specific law(s) or regulation(s) for decision-making regarding domestic use, including placing on the market, of LMOs-FFP?

Yes

52. Has your country established legal requirements for the accuracy of information to be provided by the applicant?

Yes

53. Has your country established a mechanism to ensure that decisions regarding LMOs-FFP that may be subject to transboundary movement will be communicated to the Parties through the BCH?

Yes

54. Has your country established a mechanism for taking decisions on the import of LMOs-FFP?

Yes

55. Has your country declared through the BCH that in the absence of a regulatory framework its decisions prior to the first import of an LMO-FFP will be taken according to Article 11.6

of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety?

No

56. Has your country indicated its needs for financial and technical assistance and capacity building in respect of LMOs-FFP?

No

57. Has your country ever taken a decision on LMOs-FFP (either on import or domestic use)?

No

63. Here you may provide further details on the implementation of Article 11 in your country, including measures in case of lack of scientific certainty on potential adverse effects of LMOs-FFP:

Legislation of the Republic of Belarus makes no provision for getting special permits to gene engineering activity of the first risk level, i.e. to work with nonpathogenic genetically engineered organisms. Permits to gene engineering activity of the second, third and fourth risk levels are issued in compliance with the Regulations on the procedure of issuing permits to work with microorganisms of the 1st and 2nd groups of pathogenicity approved by the Resolution of the State Chief Sanitary Physician of the Republic of Belarus "On Commission for Control over Observation of the Biological Safety Requirements and Anti-epidemic Conditions (Routine Commission)", 25.11.1997, No.25. One of the basic documents aimed at ensuring foodstuffs quality and safety is Sanitary Rules "Hygienic Requirements to the Quality and Safety of Food Raw Materials and Foodstuffs (SanPiN 1163RB98) which determine hygienic standards of the quality and safety of raw materials and foodstuffs, human meals as well as requirements to observation of the stated standards in operations with food.

#### Article 12 – Review of decision

64. Has your country established a mechanism for the review and change of a decision regarding an intentional transboundary movement of LMOs?

No

65. Has your country ever received a request for a review of a decision?

No

66. Has your country ever reviewed / changed a decision regarding an intentional transboundary movement of LMOs?

No

67. In the current reporting period, how many decisions were reviewed and/or changed regarding an intentional transboundary movement of an LMO?

None

### Article 13 – Simplified procedure

72. Has your country established a system for the application of the simplified procedure regarding an intentional transboundary movement of LMOs?

No

73. Has your country ever applied the simplified procedure?

No

75. In the current reporting period, how many LMOs has your country applied the simplified procedure to?

None

### Article 14 – Bilateral, regional and multilateral agreements and arrangements

77. Has your country entered into any bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements or arrangements?

No

### Articles 15 – Risk assessment

81. Has your country established a mechanism for conducting risk assessments prior to taking decisions regarding LMOs?

Yes

82. If you answered Yes to question 81, does this mechanism include procedures for identifying experts to conduct the risk assessments?

Yes

83. Has your country established guidelines for how to conduct risk assessments prior to taking decisions regarding LMOs?

Yes

84. Has your country acquired the necessary domestic capacity to conduct risk assessment?

Yes

85. Has your country established a mechanism for training national experts to conduct risk assessments?

Yes

86. Has your country ever conducted a risk assessment of an LMO for intentional introduction into the environment?

Yes

87. Has your country ever conducted a risk assessment of an LMO intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing?

Yes

88. If your country has taken decision(s) on LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment or on domestic use of LMOs-FFP, were risk assessments conducted for all decisions taken?

No

89. Has your country submitted summary reports of the risk assessments to the BCH?

No

90. In the current reporting period, if your country has taken decisions regarding LMOs, how many risk assessments were conducted in the context of these decisions?

None

91. Has your country ever required the exporter to conduct the risk assessment(s)?

No

92. Has your country ever required the notifier to bear the cost of the risk assessment(s) of LMOs?

No

93. Here you may provide further details on the implementation of Article 15 in your country: In addition to earlier adopted standard documents for implementation of the Article 15 of the Cartagena Protocol, the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus "On Approval of the Regulations on the Procedure of Assessing Risk of Possible Harmful Effects of Gene Engineering Organisms on Human Health" was adopted on 4th May 2010. Risk for sugar beet of cv.EDDA, resistant to herbicides, was assessed in 1999. Tests of such kind were not performed more.

#### Article 16 – Risk management

94. Has your country established and maintained appropriate and operational mechanisms, measures and strategies to regulate, manage and control risks identified in risk assessments for:

94.1) LMOs for intentional introduction into the environment?

Yes



94.2) LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing?

Yes

95. Has your country established and maintained appropriate measures to prevent unintentional transboundary movements of LMOs?

Yes

96. Has your country taken measures to ensure that any LMO, whether imported or locally developed, undergoes an appropriate period of observation that is commensurate with its life-cycle or generation time before it is put to its intended use?

Yes

97. Has your country cooperated with other Parties with a view to identifying LMOs or specific traits that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?

No

98. Has your country cooperated with other Parties with a view to taking measures regarding the treatment of LMOs or specific traits that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?

No

#### **Article 17 – Unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures**

100. Has your country made available to the BCH the relevant details setting out its point of contact for the purposes of receiving notifications under Article 17?

Yes

101. Has your country established a mechanism for addressing emergency measures in case of unintentional transboundary movements of LMOs that are likely to have significant adverse effect on biological diversity?

Yes

102. Has your country implemented emergency measures in response to information about releases that led, or may have led, to unintentional transboundary movements of LMOs?

No

103. In the current reporting period, how many times has your country received information concerning occurrences that led, or may have led, to unintentional transboundary movement(s) of one or more LMOs to or from territories under its jurisdiction?

Never

#### Article 18 – Handling, transport, packaging and identification

108. Has your country taken measures to require that LMOs that are subject to transboundary movement are handled, packaged and transported under conditions of safety, taking into account relevant international rules and standards?

Yes

109. Has your country taken measures to require that documentation accompanying LMOs-FFP clearly identifies that, in cases where the identity of the LMOs is not known through means such as identity preservation systems, they may contain living modified organisms and are not intended for intentional introduction into the environment, as well as a contact point for further information?

Yes

110. Has your country taken measures to require that documentation accompanying LMOs-FFP clearly identifies that, in cases where the identity of the LMOs is known through means such as identity preservation systems, they contain living modified organisms and are not intended for intentional introduction into the environment, as well as a contact point for further information?

Yes

111. Has your country taken measures to require that documentation accompanying LMOs that are destined for contained use clearly identifies them as living modified organisms and specifies any requirements for the safe handling, storage, transport and use, the contact point for further information, including the name and address of the individual and institution to whom the LMO are consigned?

Yes

112. Has your country taken measures to require that documentation accompanying LMOs that are intended for intentional introduction into the environment of the Party of import, clearly identifies them as living modified organisms; specifies the identity and relevant traits and/or characteristics, any requirements for the safe handling, storage, transport and use, the contact point for further information and, as appropriate, the name and address of the importer and exporter; and contains a declaration that the movement is in conformity with the requirements of this Protocol applicable to the exporter?

Yes

113. Does your country have the capacity to enforce the requirements of identification and documentation of LMOs?

Yes

114. Has your country established procedures for the sampling and detection of LMOs?

Yes

115. Here you may provide further details on the implementation of Article 18 in your country:

Over the period covered by the Second National Report, the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No.1397 (National Register of Lawful Regulations of the Republic of Belarus, 26 September 2008, No.5/28411)"On Some Questions of the Procedure for Transferring Particular Goods through the Customs Boundary of the Republic of Belarus" was adopted on 23 September 2008. It supplements a number of internal measures adopted in 2006 and aimed at implementation of the Article 18 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The list of resolutions adopted in 2006 is given below: 1. The Resolution of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus No.47, August 21, 2006 "On Approval of the Instruction on the Procedure of Import of Quarantine Objects for Scientific Study into the Territory of the Republic of Belarus" was coordinated with the President of Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus M.V. Myasnikovich on August 17, 2006. 2. The Resolution of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus No.61, September 19, 2006 "On Approval of the Instruction on the Procedure of Issuing Permits to Import Seeds into the Republic of Belarus and to Export Them outside the Country" was coordinated with the President of Presidium of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus M.V. Myasnikovich on September 18, 2006. 3. The Resolution of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus No.49, August 17, 2006 "On the Procedure of Informing the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection by a Carrier in Transit through the Territory of the Republic of Belarus of Nonpathogenic Genetically Engineered Organisms" (National Register of Lawful Regulations of the Republic of Belarus, 01.09.2006, No.144, 8/14951). 4. The Resolution of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection No. 51, August 17, 2006 "On the Procedure of Record-Keeping of Nonpathogenic Genetically Engineered Organisms by Juridical Persons and Individual Owners Which Were Produced, Imported into the Republic of Belarus, Exported outside the Republic of Belarus and Conveyed as Transit through its Territory" (National Register of Lawful Regulations of the Republic of Belarus, 01.09.2006, No.144, 8/14963). 5. The Resolution of the Ministry of Public Health of the Republic of Belarus No.73, September 21, 2006 "On Approval of Permit-and Application Forms to Import, Export or Transit of Conventionally Pathogenic and Pathogenic Genetically Engineered Organisms"(National Register of Lawful Regulations of the Republic of Belarus, 28.09.2006. No.163, 8/15087), based on the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No.1049, August 16, 2006 "On Approval of the Statement on the Procedure of Issuing Permits to Import, Export or Transit of Conventionally Pathogenic and Pathogenic Genetically Engineered Organisms". 6.The Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No.608, May 13, 2006 "On Making Amendments to the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No.218, March 18,1997 and Supplements addition" and "On Making Amendments to the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No.1853 November 29, 1999 and Supplements addition" (National Register of Lawful Regulations of the Republic of Belarus, 16.05.2006, No.76, 5/22299). 7. The Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No.1049, August 16, 2006 "On Approval of the Statement on the Procedure of Issuing Permit to Import, Export or Transit of Conventionally Pathogenic and Pathogenic Genetically Engineered Organisms" (National Register of Lawful Regulations of the Republic of Belarus, 18.08.2006, No.131, 5/22764).

## Article 19 – Competent National Authorities and National Focal Points

116. Has your country designated one national focal point for the Cartagena Protocol to be responsible for liaison with the Secretariat?

Yes

117. Has your country designated one national focal point for the Biosafety Clearing-House to liaise with the Secretariat regarding issues of relevance to the development and implementation of the BCH?

Yes

118. Has your country designated one or more competent national authorities, which are responsible for performing the administrative functions required by the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and are authorized to act on your country's behalf with respect to those functions?

Yes, more than one

119. In case your country designated more than one competent national authority, has your country conveyed to the Secretariat the respective responsibilities of those authorities?

Yes

120. Has your country made available the required information referred in questions 116-119 to the BCH?

Yes, all information

121. In case your country has designated more than one competent national authority, has your country established a mechanism for the coordination of their actions prior to taking decisions regarding LMOs?

Yes

122. Has your country established adequate institutional capacity to enable the competent national authority(ies) to perform the administrative functions required by the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety?

Yes, to some extent

123. Here you may provide further details on the implementation of Article 19 in your country:

The Article 19 of the Protocol is executed in the Republic of Belarus in accordance with the Resolution of the Council of Ministers No.734, June 5, 2002 "On Measures for Implementation of Propositions of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity" where the State Bodies responsible for implementation of the Protocol were determined: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (concerning functions associated with release of living modified organisms into the environment);

Ministry of Agriculture and Foodstuffs and Ministry of Public Health (concerning functions associated with use of living modified organisms in economic activity. No changes and supplements to this Resolution were made. The Institute of Genetics and Cytology at the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, performing the duties of the National Co-ordination Biosafety Centre according to the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No.963, June 19 1998 "On Establishment of the National Co-ordination Biosafety Centre" (Collection of Decrees, President's Edicts and Resolutions of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, No.18, 1998, Cl.492), was held responsible for sustained communications with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity concerning biosafety questions.

#### **Article 20 – Information Sharing and the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH)**

124. Please provide an overview of the status of the information provided by your country to the BCH by specifying for each category of information whether it is available and whether it has been submitted to the BCH.

124.a) Existing national legislation, regulations and guidelines for implementing the Protocol, as well as information required by Parties for the advance informed agreement procedure (Article 20, paragraph 3 (a))

##### **Information available and in the BCH**

124.b) National laws, regulations and guidelines applicable to the import of LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (Article 11, paragraph 5)

##### **Information available but only partially available in the BCH**

124.c) Bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements and arrangements (Articles 14, paragraph 2 and 20, paragraph 3 (b))

##### **Information not available**

124.d) Contact details for competent national authorities (Article 19, paragraphs 2 and 3), national focal points (Article 19, paragraphs 1 and 3), and emergency contacts (Article 17, paragraph 3 (e))

##### **Information available and in the BCH**

124.e) Reports submitted by the Parties on the operation of the Protocol (Article 20, paragraph 3 (e))

##### **Information available and in the BCH**

124.f) Decisions by a Party on regulating the transit of specific living modified organisms (LMOs) (Article 6, paragraph 1)

##### **Information available but not in the BCH**

124.g) Occurrence of unintentional transboundary movements that are likely to have significant adverse effects on biological diversity (Article 17, paragraph 1)

Information not available

124.h) Illegal transboundary movements of LMOs (Article 25, paragraph 3)

Information not available

124.i) Final decisions regarding the importation or release of LMOs (i.e. approval or prohibition, any conditions, requests for further information, extensions granted, reasons for decision) (Articles 10, paragraph 3 and 20, paragraph 3(d))

Information not available

124.j) Information on the application of domestic regulations to specific imports of LMOs (Article 14, paragraph 4)

Information not available

124.k) Final decisions regarding the domestic use of LMOs that may be subject to transboundary movement for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (Article 11, paragraph 1)

Information not available

124.l) Final decisions regarding the import of LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing that are taken under domestic regulatory frameworks (Article 11, paragraph 4) or in accordance with annex III (Article 11, paragraph 6) (requirement of Article 20, paragraph 3(d))

Information not available

124.m) Declarations regarding the framework to be used for LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed, or for processing (Article 11, paragraph 6)

Information not available

124.n) Review and change of decisions regarding intentional transboundary movements of LMOs (Article 12, paragraph 1)

Information not available

124.o) LMOs granted exemption status by each Party (Article 13, paragraph 1)

Information not available

124.p) Cases where intentional transboundary movement may take place at the same time as the movement is notified to the Party of import (Article 13, paragraph 1)

Information not available

124.q) Summaries of risk assessments or environmental reviews of LMOs generated by regulatory processes and relevant information regarding products thereof (Article 20, paragraph 3 (c))

Information not available

125. Has your country established a mechanism for strengthening the capacity of the BCH National Focal Point to perform its administrative functions?

Yes

126. Has your country established a mechanism for the coordination among the BCH National Focal Point, the Cartagena Protocol focal point, and the competent national authority(ies) for making information available to the BCH?

Yes

127. Does your country use the information available in the BCH in its decision making processes on LMOs?

Yes, always

128. Has your country experienced difficulties accessing or using the BCH?

No

130. Is the information submitted by your country to the BCH complete and up-to date?

Yes

131. Here you may provide further details on the implementation of Article 20 in your country:

Information submitted by Belarus to BCH is updated during preparing the Second National Report on Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

#### Article 21 – Confidential information

132. Has your country established procedures to protect confidential information received under the Protocol?

Yes

133. Does your country allow the notifier to identify information that is to be treated as confidential?

Yes, always

#### Article 22 – Capacity-building

135. Has your country received external support or benefited from collaborative activities

with other Parties in the development and/or strengthening of human resources and institutional capacities in biosafety?

Yes

136. If you answered Yes to question 135, how were these resources made available?

Bilateral channels

137. Has your country provided support to other Parties in the development and/or strengthening of human resources and institutional capacities in biosafety?

Yes

138. If you answered Yes to question 137, how were these resources made available?

Bilateral channels

139. Is your country eligible to receive funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF)?

Yes

140. Has your country ever initiated a process to access GEF funds for building capacity in biosafety?

Yes

141. If you answered Yes to question 140, how would you characterize the process?

Please add further details about your experience in accessing GEF funds under question 150.

Average

142. Has your country ever received funding from the GEF for building capacity in biosafety?

Development of national biosafety frameworks  
Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the BCH (Phase I)

143. During the current reporting period, has your country undertaken activities for the development and/or strengthening of human resources and institutional capacities in biosafety?

Yes

144. If you answered Yes to question 143, in which of the following areas were these activities undertaken?

Institutional capacity  
Public awareness, participation and education in biosafety



Information exchange and data management including participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House  
Scientific, technical and institutional collaboration at subregional, regional and international levels  
Implementation of the documentation requirements under Article 18.2 of the Protocol

145. During the current reporting period, has your country carried out a capacity-building needs assessment?

Yes

146. Does your country still have capacity-building needs?

Yes

147. If you answered Yes to question 146, indicate which of the following areas still need capacity-building.

Human resources capacity development and training  
Risk assessment and other scientific and technical expertise  
Risk management  
Information exchange and data management including participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House  
Scientific, technical and institutional collaboration at subregional, regional and international levels  
Technology transfer  
Identification of LMOs, including their detection  
Implementation of the documentation requirements under Article 18.2 of the Protocol  
Handling of confidential information  
Measures to address unintentional and/or illegal transboundary movements of LMOs  
Scientific biosafety research relating to LMOs  
Taking into account risks to human health

148. Has your country developed a capacity-building strategy or action plan?

Yes

149. Has your country submitted the details of national biosafety experts to the Roster of Experts in the BCH?

No

150. Here you may provide further details on the implementation of Article 22 in your country, including further details about your experience in accessing GEF funds:

At present the joint project between the Institute of Genetics and Cytology at NAS of Belarus and UNEP SSFA/2011/UNEP-GEF Coordination/NAACEE/002; GFL-2328-2716-4C05\_) "Support for Preparation of the Second National Reports on Biosafety to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety" is under way. The goal: Analysis of the efficiency of the National Biosafety System in Belarus functioning within the framework of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; determination of the basic trends of NCBC, Ministry of Nature and other

organizations responsible for observation of commitments to the Protocol for further development of the Strategy on implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for 2012-2020; preparation of the Second National Report on Biosafety to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Tasks: 1. Support and development of the National Biosafety System within the framework of the commitments undertaken by the Parties for implementation of the Protocol in compliance with the Article 33; 2. Assistance in preparation and timely (till 30 September 2011) submission of the Second National Report on Biosafety to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on BCH web-site; 3. Publication of the Second National Report on Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and proceedings of workshops and seminars in the form of published editions in Russian (200 and 50 copies, respectively) and in English (100 and 50 copies, respectively). Besides, the Institute of Genetics and Cytology at NAS of Belarus has concluded and successfully implements the International Agreement (2009-2012) with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on scientific and technical collaboration for executing the project "Development and Improvement of the Biosafety System in the Field of Agricultural Biotechnology". In September 2011 the Agreement was prolonged for 2012-2015 by mutual consent.

For ensuring stable and more effective use of BCH potentialities, an application was made to UNEP on association of the UNEP-GEF project "Continued enhancement of building capacity for effective participation in the Biosafety Clearing House" (BCH II). Participation in the project makes it possible to help the Republic of Belarus in training and raising the level of specialist skills in effective use of BCH as well as in strengthening material and technical basis of the NCBC (renewal of available and purchase of missing modern equipment and software required for participation and submission of materials for publication on BCH web-site).

Earlier the National Co-ordination Biosafety Centre implemented the following Projects: 1. The joint project of the Government of the Republic of Belarus and UNEP (2003-2004) "Establishment of the National Biosafety System for the Republic of Belarus" as a result of which the National Biosafety System of the Republic of Belarus meeting the Articles of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was developed. 2. The joint project of the Government of the Republic of Belarus and UNEP (2006-2007) "The Capacity Building for Effective Participation in Biosafety Clearing House", as a result of which necessary conditions for participation in Biosafety Clearing House were created.

### Article 23 – Public awareness and participation

151. Has your country established a strategy or put in place legislation for promoting and facilitating public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs?

Yes

152. Has your country established a biosafety website?

Yes

153. Has your country established a mechanism to ensure public access to information on living modified organisms that may be imported?

Yes

154. Has your country established a mechanism to consult the public in the decision-making process regarding LMOs?

Yes, to a limited extent

155. Has your country established a mechanism to make available to the public the results of decisions taken on LMOs?

Yes

156. Has your country taken any initiative to inform its public about the means of public access to the Biosafety Clearing-House?

No

157. In the current reporting period, has your country promoted and facilitated public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of LMOs?

Yes

158. If you answered Yes to question 157, has your country cooperated with other States and international bodies?

Yes

159. In the current reporting period, how many times has your country consulted the public in the decision-making process regarding LMOs and made the results of such decisions available to the public?

None

160. Here you may provide further details on the implementation of Article 23 in your country:

A web-site dedicated to biosafety was created in Belarus. It is supported by the National Coordination Biosafety Centre of the Institute of Genetics and Cytology at NAS of Belarus. Web-site address: <http://biosafety.org.by> The web-site content is regularly updated. People are acquainted via this web-site with all the information materials received from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as with current information on biosafety problems in the Republic of Belarus. NCBC elucidated and popularized the activity of governmental, scientific and educational organizations on implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Information on GMO problems was published in 14 newspapers and press-conferences, in 8 radio- and 5 TV programs. Two monographs on problems of biosafety and bioethics, handbooks for magistrands, postgraduates and students were published as well as 4 scientific articles on problems of ensuring biosafety and fulfilling the program on biodiversity conservation in Belarus; three lecture courses were delivered to students of Universities and magistrands. The Institute of Genetics and Cytology at NAS of Belarus has concluded and successfully implements the International Agreement (2009-2012) with the Bolivarian Republic of

Venezuela on scientific and technical collaboration for executing the project "Development and Improvement of the Biosafety System in the Field of Agricultural Biotechnology". In September 2011 the Agreement was prolonged for 2012-2015 by mutual consent. Within the framework of this project a number of books on the principles of modern biotechnology and biosafety will be translated into Spanish and the plan of educational game on principles of molecular genetics and biotechnology will be worked out too.

#### Article 24 – Non-Parties

161. Has your country entered into any bilateral, regional, or multilateral agreement with non-Parties regarding transboundary movements of LMOs?

No

162. Has your country ever imported LMOs from a non-Party?

No

163. Has your country ever exported LMOs to a non-Party?

No

#### Article 25 – Illegal transboundary movements

168. Has your country adopted domestic measures aimed at preventing and/or penalizing transboundary movements of LMOs carried out in contravention of its domestic measures to implement this Protocol?

No

169. Has your country established a strategy for detecting illegal transboundary movements of LMOs?

Yes

170. In the current reporting period, how many times has your country received information concerning cases of illegal transboundary movements of an LMO to or from territories under its jurisdiction?

Never

#### Article 26 – Socio-economic considerations

176. If your country has taken a decision on import, has it ever taken into account socio-economic considerations arising from the impact of the LMO on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity?

Yes

177. Has your country cooperated with other Parties on research and information exchange on any socio-economic impacts of LMOs?

Yes, to a limited extent

#### Article 27 – Liability and Redress

179. Has your country signed the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress?

No

180. Has your country initiated steps towards ratification, acceptance or approval of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol?

Yes

#### Article 33 – Monitoring and reporting

182. Has your country submitted the previous national reports (Interim and First National Reports)?

Yes, First report only

#### Other information

184. Please use this field to provide any other information on issues related to national implementation of the Protocol, including any obstacles or impediments encountered.

There are three basic trends of modern biotechnology in Belarus: 1. Breeding of new effective microorganism strains as biotechnological objects for microbial synthesis of biologically active compounds and for their use in industry, agriculture and environmental protection; 2. Breeding of genetically engineered cultivars of agricultural and ornamental plants; 3. Application of gene engineering biotechnologies in medicine for disease diagnostics and treatment and production of new drugs. Policy of the Republic of Belarus in the field of biosafety is based on fundamental principles consolidated with appropriate regulations of the national legislation. Biotechnology and genetic engineering are attributed to the priority scientific trends and technologies in compliance with the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No.139, February 27, 1997 "On Priority Trends of Designing and Developing New High Technologies and Criteria of their Assessment" (Collection of Decrees, President's Edicts and Resolutions of the Government of the Republic of Belarus, 1997, No.6, P.237) and with the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, No.111, January 29, 2002 "On Approval of the List of the Priority Trends in Fundamental Scientific Investigations of the Republic of Belarus for 2002-2005 and of the List of State Programs for their Implementation (National register of Lawful Regulations of the republic of Belarus, 2002, No.16, 5/9864), and with the Edict of the President of the Republic of Belarus No.315, July 2005 "On Approval of the Priority Trends in Scientific and Technical Activity in the Republic of Belarus for 2006-2010"; On Introducing Supplements and Making Amendments to the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus, No.5, April 25 2007, the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No.1376, September 20, 2008, the Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus No.1386, October 23 2009 "On the State Program "Innovative Biotechnologies" for 2010-2012 and for the period of 2015".

## Comments on reporting format

185. Please use this field to provide any other information on difficulties that you have encountered in filling in this report.

No any difficulties we had encountered in filling in this report. Participants of the seminars held within the framework of preparing the Second National Report on Biosafety consider it important: 1. To pay attention to the necessity for intensifying the role of bioethics in solving the problems associated with introduction and application of GMO; 2. To hold regularly international seminars on biosafety problems for specialists of national co-ordination biosafety centres as trainers of customs officers on biosafety under the Cartagena Protocol.