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Convention on Access to Information,
Public Participation in Decision-making and
Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Working Group on Genetically Modified Organisms
(Third meeting, Geneva, 17 – 19 June 2002)

**DRAFT GUIDELINES ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND
ACCESS TO JUSTICE WITH RESPECT TO GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS**

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The various terms used in these Guidelines, such as GMO, are defined in annex I.

Preamble

Mindful of the need for transparency and public participation in decision-making on genetically modified organisms (GMOs),

^{1/} The present text has been prepared by the Chairperson with the assistance of the secretariat and a small drafting group in accordance with the procedure agreed upon by the Working Group at its second meeting (CEP/WG.5/AC.3/2002/2, para. 36). The footnotes are included to help the Working Group and will not appear in the final version of the Guidelines. Square brackets have been used to draw attention to parts of the text which are expected to require special attention or where different options are proposed for consideration.

Recognizing that the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment and the accidental release of GMOs from certain types of contained use may have significant adverse effects on the environment, and pose risks to human health,

Taking into account the regional and international instruments with a bearing on public information and public participation in the area of GMOs, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and its Biosafety Clearing House and European Union legislation,

Recognizing the need for consumers to have adequate information on products consisting of, containing [or derived from] GMOs to enable them to make informed environmental choices,

Desiring to build public confidence in decision-making on the use of GMOs,

the Parties to the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) hereby adopt the following Guidelines:

I. OBJECTIVE AND INTRODUCTION

1. The objective of these Guidelines is to:

(a) Facilitate the practical application and interpretation of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention relevant to GMOs;

(b) Encourage the development of a common approach to access to information, public participation and access to justice in decision-making on GMOs, including on GMO-related matters which are not explicitly referred to in the Convention;

(c) Provide guidance to Parties on the further development of national legal frameworks and practices with respect to matters within the scope of these Guidelines;

(d) Assist other States seeking to develop or expand access to information, public participation and access to justice with respect to GMOs;

(e) Stimulate open, transparent, efficient and accountable decision-making on activities with GMOs, thereby fostering good practices for public participation in decision-making that may go beyond the legal requirements of the Convention; and

(f) Promote and facilitate public awareness, education and participation in decision-making on activities involving GMOs.

2. The Guidelines provide a non-legally binding and voluntary framework. Not all of the Guidelines will be applicable to all situations. The Guidelines should be applied in a flexible manner, taking into account the existing framework in the respective country and the specific activity with GMOs.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING ON SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES WITH GMOs

Scope

3. It is recommended that in principle public participation procedures should be provided for in decision-making procedures in all three areas of GMO applications:

- (a) Deliberate release;
- (b) Placing on the market;
- (c) Contained use.

This does not mean that public participation procedures should be applied to all decision-making processes in these areas. The following two paragraphs aim to give guidance on which decision-making processes should generally be subject to public participation procedures.

4. It is recommended that public participation as described in paragraphs 6 to 21 should [generally] be provided for in the following GMO-related decision-making procedures:

- (a) First-time deliberate release into the environment of GMOs in any given location;
- (b) First-time placing on the market of GMOs not exclusively intended for research or for culture collections;
- (c) Procedures for determining whether sufficient experience has been obtained with respect to deliberate releases of certain GMOs in certain ecosystems and simplified procedures could therefore be followed;
- (d) First-time contained use of GMOs from which an accidental release could result in potentially adverse effects on the environment, or human health.

5. States may also consider applying the procedures described in paragraphs 6 to 21 below to cases other than those referred to in paragraph 4 above. It is recommended that the following general criteria should be used when deciding if a specific case should be subject to public participation or not:

- (a) The type of GMO (host organism, genetic modification);
- (b) The level of experience obtained with the GMO in question with respect to risks to the environment, or to human health;
- (c) For genetically modified micro-organisms, the risk category (if any);
- (d) The intended use;
- (e) Any planned containment or other risk management measure, if applicable;
- (f) The scale of use, if applicable;
- (g) The characteristics of the potentially affected environment;
- (h) First-time or subsequent application;
- (i) Any proposal for simplified procedures in the decision-making procedure on the basis of experience.

Public notice and access to information relevant to public participation

6. Providing adequate public notice of a specific planned activity with GMOs within the scope of this chapter of the Guidelines should be the first step in the public participation procedure. The nature and contents of the public notice will vary, depending on the type of the planned activity (e.g. contained use, deliberate release, placing on the market). The following paragraphs provide examples of good practice and should be applied in a flexible manner.

7. It is recommended that the public concerned should be informed, either by public notice or individually as appropriate, early in the decision-making procedure, and in an adequate, timely and effective manner of the aspects described in annex II. ^{2/}

8. The public authorities should find effective means to inform the public concerned about the proposed activity with GMOs, for example through notices:

- (a) In the official government gazette;
- (b) In appropriate national, regional or local newspapers;
- (c) At the town hall of the municipality in the proximity of the facility or site where the proposed activity (contained use or deliberate release) with GMOs is intended to take place; and/or
- (d) On its Internet site.

9. In addition to notifying the public concerned according to paragraphs 6 to 8 above, it is recommended that the public authorities should provide opportunities for members of the public concerned to seek and obtain information relevant to the decision-making procedure so that they can participate in an informed manner.

10. The information which should be publicly accessible includes, where appropriate, the elements described in annex III. ^{3/} In this context, annexes II, III and IV to EC directive 2001/18 and annexes I, II and III to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety may also be useful sources of information. It is recommended that the public authorities should give the public access to the information that they possess and that is available at the time of the public participation procedure, without prejudice to their right to refuse to disclose certain confidential information in accordance with article 4, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Aarhus Convention.

11. The public authorities may give the public access to the relevant information for examination by publicly disclosing this information:

- (a) At national, regional and, where applicable, local governmental or public libraries, in the proximity of the facility or the site where the contained use or the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment will take place; and/or
- (b) On their Internet site.

^{2/} This paragraph and annex II are broadly based on article 6, paragraph 2 (a) to (d), of the Convention.

^{3/} This paragraph and annex III are broadly based on article 6, paragraph 6 (a) to (f), of the Convention.

12. It is recommended that the public authorities should provide public access to information for examination free of charge and endeavour to supply copies of information free of charge in response to requests from the public. However, a reasonable charge for supplying the information requested may be made. In such cases the public authorities should make available a schedule of charges which may be levied, indicating the circumstances in which they may be levied or waived and when the supply of information is conditional on the advance payment of such a charge. 4/

Procedure for public participation and decision-making

13. The public participation procedures should provide for early participation, when all options are open and effective public participation can take place. 5/ The following paragraphs provide examples of good practice for procedures for public participation and should be applied in a flexible manner.

14. The public participation procedures should include reasonable time frames for the different phases, allowing sufficient time for informing the public and for the public to prepare and participate effectively during the decision-making on certain specific activities with GMOs. 6/

15. Potential notifiers or applicants are encouraged to identify the public concerned, to enter into discussions and to provide information regarding the objectives of their application before notifying or applying for a consent or permit for certain specific activities with GMOs. 7/

16. Public participation procedures should allow the public to submit, in writing or, as appropriate, at a public hearing or inquiry (with the notifier or applicant), any comments, information, analyses or opinions in relation to the proposed activity with GMOs. 8/

17. The public authorities should ensure that in the decision due account is taken of the outcome of the public participation [on the basis of the legally binding criteria for decision-making]. 9/ This may[, where appropriate and feasible,] include an analysis of the comments and a description of the reasons for taking or not taking them into account in the (draft) decision.

18. When the public authorities have taken a decision on a proposed specific activity with GMOs, the public should be promptly informed of the decision, e.g. through a notice:

- (a) In the official government gazette;
- (b) In national, regional and, where applicable, local newspapers, in the proximity of the facility or the site where the contained use or the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment will take place; and/or

4/ This paragraph is broadly based on article 6, paragraph 6, and article 4, paragraph 8, of the Convention.

5/ This paragraph is broadly based on article 6, paragraph 4, of the Convention

6/ This paragraph is broadly based on article 6, paragraph 3, of the Convention.

7/ This paragraph is broadly based on article 6, paragraph 5, of the Convention.

8/ This paragraph is broadly based on article 6, paragraph 7, of the Convention

9/ This sentence (without the square-bracketed text) is broadly based on article 6, paragraph 8, of the Convention

- (c) On the public authority's Internet site (e.g. in cases of placing on the market). 10/

19. It is recommended that the public authorities should make publicly accessible the text of the decision and the reasons and considerations on which the decision is based[, together with a description indicating how due account has been taken of the outcome of the public participation]. This can be done by making the information available, for example:

(a) At national, regional and, where appropriate, local governmental or public libraries, in the proximity of the facility or the site where the contained use or the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment will take place;

- (b) On their Internet site. 11/

20. If new information on the effects on the environment, or on human health, of activities with GMOs within the scope of this chapter of the Guidelines has become available, the public authorities should consider, when deciding on whether to renew a consent or permit after it has expired, if paragraphs 13 to 19 above should be applied *mutatis mutandis*. In a similar way this could be done when the public authorities reconsider or update the operating conditions for a specific activity with GMOs. 12/

21. In order to improve public knowledge, public participation and awareness of activities involving GMOs, the public authorities are encouraged to explore other mechanisms and measures. Such mechanisms and measures could include consensus conferences, round-table discussions, stakeholder dialogues and citizens' juries on issues relating to, for example, the risk assessment and risk management of GMOs.

III. ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION ON GMOs, COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES WITH GMOs

Scope

22. This chapter of the Guidelines is based on articles 4 and 5 of the Convention. It deals with the broader and more general access to information for the public in the context of activities with GMOs. The Guidelines cover information on:

- (a) Deliberate releases of GMOs;
- (b) Placing on the market of GMOs as or in products;
- (c) Contained uses of GMOs.

[Taking into account developments in international forums, the question of including][It may also include] information on products produced from [or with the help of] GMOs, which do not necessarily contain the GMO as such[, may be revisited in the future].

10/ This paragraph is broadly based on article 6, paragraph 9, of the Convention.

11/ This paragraph is broadly based on article 6, paragraph 9, of the Convention.

12/ This paragraph contains elements of article 6, paragraph 10, of the Convention.

23. As GMOs are explicitly mentioned in the definition of environmental information in article 2, paragraph 3 (a), of the Convention, articles 4 and 5 of the Convention may generally apply. Consequently, the following paragraphs build on that and aim to assist in the application of these provisions of the Convention to some types of GMO activities.

Collection and dissemination of information on GMOs by the public authorities

24. The Biosafety Clearing House of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (see its article 20) contains useful guidance on which type of information could be made accessible to the public.

25. In addition to the information requirements for notification of the public in the context of public participation in decision-making, the public authorities may collect and disseminate further information on GMO activities which can be made accessible to the public. It is recommended that the public authorities should:

- (a) Maintain and update information on activities with GMOs, e.g. via registers and databases;
- (b) Establish mandatory systems so that they receive an adequate flow of information about proposed and existing activities with GMOs;
- (c) In the event of any imminent threat to human health or the environment of activities with GMOs, disseminate immediately and without delay to members of the public who may be affected, all information that they hold and that could enable the public to take measures or mitigate harm arising from the threat. 13/

26. It is recommended that the public authorities should have transparent ways of making information on activities with GMOs available to the public and effectively accessible, inter alia, by the ways described in annex IV. 14/

27. It is recommended that the publicly accessible lists, registers or files established and maintained by the public authorities as described in paragraph 26 above and annex IV should contain, inter alia, the information on activities with GMOs listed in annex V.

28. The UNECE secretariat is requested to establish and maintain on the Convention's web site an up-to-date list of web sites which are considered to be examples of good practice in this area.

29. It is recommended that the Parties should, at regular intervals not exceeding in principle three years, publish and disseminate reports on the experience gained with activities with GMOs, including any results of monitoring their effects on the environment, [or on human health,] and also including possible implications for the risk assessment and risk management of further activities with GMOs. 15/

13/ This paragraph is broadly based on article 5, paragraph 1 (a) to (c), of the Convention.

14/ This paragraph and annex IV are broadly article 5, paragraph 2 (a) and (c), of the Convention.

15/ This paragraph is broadly based on article 5, paragraph 4, of the Convention.

30. It is recommended that the Parties should develop mechanisms to ensure that sufficient information on products consisting of GMOs [,][or] containing GMOs [or containing products derived from GMOs] is made available to the public in a manner which enables consumers to make informed environmental choices about such products. It is recommended that activities and progress in other forums, such as the Cartagena Protocol and the Codex Alimentarius, should be taken into account. 16/

31. [One such mechanism is the labelling of products consisting of or containing GMOs[, or containing products derived from GMOs,] at any stage of the production and distribution chain, and providing the source of further information, for example a (toll-free) telephone line and/or Internet site. Where products, including bulk quantities, are not packaged and the use of a label is not possible, this information may be transmitted with the product along the production and distribution chain, in the form of, for example, accompanying documentation. Any labelling schemes as a basis for informed environmental choices should take account of the developments in other forums, as described in paragraph 30 above.]

32. The notifiers or applicants for activities with GMOs having a significant impact on the environment are encouraged to inform the public regularly of the environmental impact of such activities. 17/

IV. ACCESS TO JUSTICE

OPTION 1: 18/

33. If a Party decides to implement the provisions of these Guidelines through a legally binding framework, it is recommended that it should also, within the framework of its legislation, provide for access to justice along the lines of article 9 of the Convention, including with respect to GMO activities that fall within the scope of these Guidelines but may not be subject to the provisions of article 9 of the Convention.

OPTION 2:

33. If a Party decides to implement the provisions of these Guidelines through a legally binding framework, it is recommended that the following paragraphs, which are broadly based on article 9 of the Convention, should apply.

34. It is recommended that the Parties should ensure that any member of the public who considers that his or her request for information on activities with GMOs has not been dealt with in accordance with any legally binding provisions implementing these Guidelines has access to a review procedure before a court of law or another independent and impartial body established by law.

35. Where provision is made for such a review by a court of law, the Parties should in any case ensure that such a person has access to an expeditious procedure established by law that is free of

16/ This paragraph contains elements of article 5, paragraph 8, of the Convention.

17/ This paragraph contains elements of article 5, paragraph 6, of the Convention.

18/ Under option 1, the chapter on access to justice would consist only of paragraph 33, i.e. paragraphs 34 to 40 would not be included under option 1 but would be included under option 2.

charge or inexpensive for reconsideration by a public authority or review by an independent and impartial body other than a court of law.

36. Final decisions under paragraph 34 should be binding on the public authorities holding the information on activities with GMOs. The reasons should be stated in writing, at least where access to information is refused.

37. It is recommended that [any] member[s] of the public [concerned][having a sufficient interest within the framework of the legislation] who allege[s] that [his or her][their] rights to participate in accordance with any legally binding provisions implementing paragraphs 3 to 21 have been violated [or who wish[es] to challenge the substantive or procedural legality of decisions within the scope of paragraphs 3 to 21] should have access to a review procedure before a court of law and/or another independent and impartial body to challenge the alleged violation.

38. If access is provided to a court of law, the public authorities should in any case ensure that such a person has access to an expeditious procedure established by law that is free of charge or inexpensive for reconsideration by the public authorities or review by an independent and impartial body other than a court of law.

39. Final decisions by the review bodies referred to in paragraph 37 above should be binding on these public authorities unless overturned at a higher level. The reasons should be stated in writing.

40. It is recommended that members of the public should have access to administrative or judicial procedures to challenge acts and omissions by private persons and public authorities which contravene provisions of national law relating to the environment, including laws on GMOs. The Parties may choose to introduce criteria limiting the scope of the public that has access to such procedures. In this context, it is recommended that NGOs established for the purpose of and actively engaged in protecting the environment [or human health] should in any case be granted such access.

V. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUIDELINES

41. The public authorities of different countries should, to the extent possible and where appropriate, cooperate and assist each other in capacity-building for the practical implementation of these Guidelines.

42. The Parties should monitor and keep under review the implementation of these Guidelines and should report for the first time on their usefulness and the progress made in implementing them to the UNECE secretariat not later than two years after their adoption.

Annex I

USE OF TERMS

1. Unless otherwise stated, the terms 'public authority', 'environmental information', 'public' and 'public concerned' shall have the meanings given to them in article 2 of the Convention. [The term 'environment' shall be construed to include environment-related human health.]
2. For the purpose of these Guidelines, the following use of terms for activities with GMOs, which is based on existing international and regional documents, such as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the European Community Directives on the deliberate release (2001/18/EC) and contained use (90/219/EC as amended by 98/81/EC) of GMOs, applies:
 - (a) 'Genetically modified organism' (GMO) means any organism with the exception of human beings that possesses a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology;
 - (b) 'Modern biotechnology' means the application of:
 - (i) In vitro nucleic acid techniques, including recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) and direct injection of nucleic acid into cells or organelles; or
 - (ii) Fusion of cells beyond the taxonomic family,that overcome natural physiological reproductive or recombination barriers and that are not techniques used in traditional breeding and selection;
 - [(c) 'Micro-organism' means any microbiological entity, cellular or non-cellular, capable of replication or of transferring genetic material, including viruses, viroids, animal and plant cells in culture;]
 - (d) 'Deliberate release' is defined as any intentional introduction into the environment of a GMO or a combination of GMOs for which no specific containment measures are used to limit their contact with and to provide a high level of safety for the general population and the environment;
 - (e) 'Placing of GMOs on the market' is defined as making GMOs available to third parties, whether in return for payment or free of charge;
 - (f) 'Contained use' means any activity, undertaken within a facility, installation or other physical structure, which involves genetically modified organisms that are controlled by specific measures that effectively limit their contact with, and their impact on, the external environment;
 - [(g) The four different risk categories of activities of contained use involving genetically modified micro-organisms (GMMs) are:

- Class 1: activities of no or negligible risk [, that is to say activities for which level-1 containment is appropriate to protect human health and the environment];
- Class 2: activities of low risk [, that is to say activities for which level-2 containment is appropriate to protect human health and the environment];
- Class 3: activities of moderate risk [, that is to say activities for which level-3 containment is appropriate to protect human health and the environment];
- Class 4: activities of high risk [, that is to say activities for which level-4 containment is appropriate to protect human health and the environment];

[(h) ‘First-time contained use of [GMOs][GMMs]’ is defined as the first-time use, in a specific contained facility, of a GMO belonging to a [group] which has not previously been notified to the public authorities;]

[(i) ‘Subsequent contained use of GMOs’ is defined as contained use, in a specific facility, of GMOs belonging to a group which has previously been notified to the public authorities;]

[(j) [option 1: definition of the risk level]

[option 2: definition of small and large-scale activities/operations]

[option 3: scientific or industrial activities/operations]]

3. The term “national” shall, with respect to any regional economic integration organization applying these Guidelines, be construed as applying to the scope or level of the regional economic integration organization in question unless otherwise indicated.

Annex II

**RECOMMENDED CONTENTS OF THE PUBLIC NOTICE
DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 7**

It is recommended that the following information should be actively notified to the public concerned in the context of the decision-making procedures referred to in chapter II:

- (a) The proposed activity and the application on which a decision will be taken;
- (b) The type of decision which is being taken (e.g. a decision on whether to grant a permit for the import of a GMO, a deliberate release, etc.)
- (c) The public authority responsible for making the decision; and
- (d) The envisaged procedure, including, as and when this information can be provided:
 - (i) The commencement of the procedure;
 - (ii) The opportunities for the public to participate (these can vary depending on the case: e.g. examination of the dossier and/or draft decision, possibility for written comments, participation in any public hearing);
 - (iii) The time and venue of any planned public hearing;
 - (iv) The public authority or any other official body from which relevant information can be obtained and where the relevant information has been deposited for examination by the public;
 - (v) The public authority or any other official body to which comments or questions can be submitted and the time schedule for the transmittal of comments or questions; and
 - (vi) An indication of what environmental information relevant to the proposed activity with the GMOs is available, e.g. a notification dossier; and
- (e) Any other information that the public authority considers appropriate.

Annex III

INFORMATION RECOMMENDED TO BE AVAILABLE WITHIN A PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURE

In addition to the information items listed in annex II, the following information should be available to the public in the context of the decision-making procedures referred to in chapter II:

- (a) A general description of the GMOs;
- (b) The name and address of the notifier or applicant;
- (c) The purpose of the proposed activity with the GMOs;
- (d) Experience obtained with deliberate releases into the environment of certain GMOs;
- (e) In the case of a proposal for simplified procedures for deliberate releases of certain GMOs into the environment, experience obtained with deliberate releases into the environment of those GMOs;
- (f) The location of the site where the proposed deliberate release of the GMOs into the environment will take place (depending on the legal and administrative practice in a country this can vary between the description of the exact plot, the land register or the local community); the intended uses of the GMOs; an environmental risk assessment including a description of the potential effects on the environment [and taking into account risks to human health]; a description of the measures, if any, to limit potentially adverse effects on the environment [and human health]; a description of the plan for monitoring [the effects on the environment and human health]; a description of the measures, if any, to treat waste arising from the deliberate release of the GMOs; a description of any emergency response plan and the possibility for its implementation;
- (g) The location of the facility where the first-time contained use of GMOs under the scope of this chapter of the Guidelines will take place, and a description of the specific containment measures; a description of the expected waste of the GMOs and its treatment; a description of any emergency response plan and the possibility for its implementation;
- (h) A non-technical summary of the above; and
- (i) The main reports and advice issued by expert committees or advisory bodies to the public authorities, in accordance with national legislation.

Annex IV

**POSSIBLE WAYS FOR THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES TO MAKE INFORMATION
ON GMOs AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC**

- (a) Providing sufficient information to the public about the type and scope of information on activities with GMOs that they hold, the basic terms and conditions under which such information is made available and accessible, and the process by which it can be obtained. This can be done through Internet sites or regular publications;
- (b) Establishing and maintaining practical arrangements, such as: (i) publicly accessible lists, registers or files; (ii) requiring officials to support the public in seeking access to information; and (iii) the identification of points of contact;
- (c) Providing access to the information on activities with GMOs contained in publicly accessible lists, registers or files free of charge; and
- (d) The lists, registers or files with publicly accessible information on activities with GMOs may be available at national, regional and/or local governmental or public libraries, as appropriate, and progressively on their Internet sites.

Annex V

**POSSIBLE CONTENTS OF PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE LISTS, REGISTERS
OR FILES ON ACTIVITIES WITH GMOS ESTABLISHED AND
MAINTAINED BY THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES**

The contents of this annex are not meant to duplicate existing national obligations or any obligations under other international organizations and instruments, such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Biosafety Clearing House or other international and regional databases. It is meant as a checklist, which should be applied in a flexible manner according to the specific activity with the GMO. If parts or all of these aspects are dealt with in an existing national or regional register/database/web site, no new mechanism needs to be established. Parts of this paragraph are already listed in annex III (containing the possible information according to paragraph 10) and are not meant as a duplication but have to be seen as complementary to each other. Please observe the different scopes of chapters II and III of these Guidelines and therefore of annexes III and V. It is recommended that the public authorities should take measures within the framework of their legislation for the purpose of disseminating, inter alia, the information items listed in subparagraphs (a) to (d). 19/

- (a) Legislation and policy documents on activities with GMOs prepared at various levels (local, national, regional and international). This may include a description and, where applicable, the actual texts of legal and policy frameworks related to GMOs and contact point(s) for further information[. This may also include a description of framework(s) related to products derived from GMOs, including systems for product information such as labelling];
- (b) Legislation and policy documents on public information and public participation in decision-making according to (general) administrative laws at various levels (national, regional or international);
- (c) International treaties, conventions and agreements relevant to activities with GMOs, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and European Community directives 2001/18/EC and 90/219/EC as amended by 98/81/EC;
- (d) Other significant international documents on regulatory approaches and the risk assessment of GMOs by international organizations, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and their Codex Alimentarius Commission, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development;
- (e) A non-technical explanation of the types of activities with GMOs regulated by national, regional and international legislation;

19/ This paragraph is based on article 5, paragraph 5, of the Convention.

(f) A list of GMOs which have gained approval for placing on the market within the country including contact points and links to Internet sites for further information on the risk assessments of these GMOs; this may include a list of GMOs [and/or products derived therefrom] which have been approved for food use, feed use or any other use within the country, and the requirements for product information;

(g) (i) Notifications of and/or applications for certain contained uses of GMOs; (ii) a (summary of the) risk assessment; and (iii) any decisions on such applications made by the public authorities;

(h) (i) Notifications of and/or applications for deliberate releases of GMOs into the environment; (ii) a (summary of the) risk assessment; and (iii) decisions made by the public authorities;

(i) Non-technical summaries of applications for deliberate releases of GMOs into the environment and decisions made by the public authorities;

(j) Experience obtained with deliberate releases into the environment of certain GMOs, in particular those for which simplified authorization procedures are proposed;

(k) Information on methods of protection if any risk arises for the environment, or human health;

(l) New information relevant to the risk assessment that may become available while the notification of or application for a specific activity with GMOs is under consideration by the public authorities;

(m) The advice on a notification or application for a specific activity with GMOs of any expert committee or advisory body to the public authorities;

(n) Decisions to grant or refuse a consent or permit for a proposed specific activity with GMOs;

(o) Any limitations and/or conditions attached to any consent or permit granted, including the reasons of the public authorities for attaching limitations and/or conditions;

(p) Significant new information on a specific activity with GMOs for which a consent or permit has previously been granted subsequently notified to the public authorities and which may have an influence on the risk assessment;

(q) Information on the effects of deliberate releases of GMOs into the environment, including information on the results of the monitoring of their effects on the environment[, and on human health,] and its implications for any further deliberate releases; information on the monitoring of products containing or consisting of GMOs which have been placed on the market;

(r) Decisions taken by the public authorities to revoke or to vary limitations and conditions attached to a consent or permit granted;

(s) Information on the advance informed agreements on living modified organisms (LMOs) imported into the country as foreseen by the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention of Biological Diversity (reference should be made to the Biosafety Clearing House of the Cartagena Protocol);

(t) Information shared by the public authorities of different countries, if a deliberate release of GMOs into the environment will take place in more than one country;

(u) Information on sites of deliberate releases of GMOs [and places where GMOs are grown commercially]. This may be information specifying the actual plot, the land register or the local community; and

(v) Contact points to obtain further information from the public authorities.