



**Economic and Social
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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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

Working Group on Genetically Modified Organisms
(Fourth meeting, Geneva, 18-20 October 2004)

REPORT OF THE FOURTH MEETING

Addendum

DRAFT DECISION II/...

ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS¹

The Meeting of the Parties,

Recognizing the importance of further developing the application of the Convention to decisions on whether to permit the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) through applying inter alia more precise provisions than those set out in article 6, paragraph 11, of the Convention,

Recalling its decision I/4,

Acknowledging the varying practical needs of the Convention's Parties and Signatories, in particular those with economies in transition, in relation to the development and implementation of national biosafety frameworks, including their needs for stronger provisions on public participation,

¹ This document is based on document MP.PP/AC.2/2004/5, which was revised by the Working Group. The annex referred to in operative paragraph 1 is not included, but four options are annexed to the report of the fourth meeting.

Recognizing the need to cooperate with other international organizations and forums, in particular the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, with a view to maximizing synergy and avoiding duplication of effort, inter alia through encouraging the exchange of information and further collaboration between the secretariat of the UNECE Aarhus Convention and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Calling upon all Parties and Signatories to the Aarhus Convention to ratify or to accede as appropriate to the Cartagena Protocol, as this provides an opportunity to develop a national biosafety framework, including risk assessment and decision procedures involving public participation, and to facilitate participation in capacity-building programmes, particularly in the context of the United Nations Environment Programme-Global Environment Fund project,

Believing that, notwithstanding developments in other forums, the Aarhus Convention provides an appropriate international framework for further developing access to information, public participation and access to justice with respect to GMOs,

Supporting the continued use of the Guidelines on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice with respect to Genetically Modified Organisms (MP.PP/2003/3), which it adopted as a non-binding, voluntary instrument,

Noting the activities and reports of the Working Group on Genetically Modified Organisms,

- [1. Adopts the amendment to the Convention set out in the annex to this decision;
2. Encourages Parties to ratify, accept or approve the amendment at the earliest opportunity and to apply it to the maximum extent possible pending its entry into force;
3. Also encourages Parties to renew their efforts to implement the Guidelines; and
4. Resolves to review progress in the ratification, acceptance and approval of the amendment and the implementation of the Guidelines at its third meeting.]