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## Standard Setting

### CCGP AGREES CODEX RISK ANALYSIS PRINCIPLES

The Codex Committee on General Principles (CCGP) met from 7-11 April in Paris, France, for its 18th session to consider, inter alia, draft working principles for risk analysis for application in the framework of the Codex Alimentarius, proposed draft working principles for risk analysis for food safety, and traceability/product tracing.

The main achievement of the meeting was the adoption of the draft working principles for risk analysis for application in the framework of the Codex Alimentarius, finalised by consensus for final adoption by the Codex Alimentarius Commission in July. These Principles will be widely applied throughout the Codex. During the last meeting of the CCGP, the Committee had decided to develop separate risk analysis principles for the Codex and for governments (see *BRIDGES Trade BioRes*, 2 May 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-05-02/story2.htm>). While the Codex Principles were adopted at the current meeting, members only started discussion of principles to be applied by governments for risk analysis for food safety, and an updated draft will be circulated before the next meeting of the CCGP in 2004.

### New Working Group on traceability/product tracing

The consideration of traceability/product tracing has proven contentious in a number of Codex Committees, notably in the Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Foods Derived From Biotechnology, which agreed to refer to "tracing of products" rather than traceability as a risk management tool in 2002 (see *BRIDGES Trade BioRes*, 21 March 2002, <http://www.ictsd.org/biores/02-03-21/story2.htm>). While the EU considers the two concepts to have the same meaning, the US has argued for separate definitions, with product tracing being limited to 'one step forward and one step back'. The current meeting agreed to begin working on a definition of traceability/product tracing in a new group. The Working Group will be open to interested countries and chaired by France. It will report back to the next session of the CCGP in a year's time.

Other topics discussed in the CCGP related to the status of the EC as a member of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which was forwarded to be further clarified by the FAO Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters. On the proposed draft revised code of ethics for international trade in foods, participants made little headway, staying entrenched in well-known positions on issues such as reference to the WTO agreements within the Codex guidelines. This code will remain on the CCGP agenda at its next meeting.

The meeting of the Codex Alimentarius Commission will be held from 30 June to 7 July. The CCGP will meet again in April 2004.

## **Background**

The CCGP deals with procedural and general matters referred to it by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. These include the establishment of the General Principles that define the purpose and scope of the Codex Alimentarius, the nature of Codex standards and guidelines for Codex Committees. Standards are developed in a number of Codex Committees. While these are only voluntary, the Codex Alimentarius Commission is recognised by the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) as the international organisation responsible for standard-setting related to food safety. WTO Members "shall base" their measures related to human and plant health on these standards, guidelines or recommendations. Such measures "shall be deemed to be necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health, and presumed to be consistent with the relevant provisions" of the SPS Agreement. The other two international standard-setting bodies recognised in the SPS Agreement are the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) for plant health and the Office International de Epizooties (OIE) for animal health and zoonoses. While Codex standards only apply to food safety, they are likely to have far wider implications for discussions in the other standard-setting bodies as well as in related fora, including other Codex Committees, the WTO and bilateral negotiations.

The meeting documents are available at: [http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccgp18/gp03\\_01e.htm](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccgp18/gp03_01e.htm).

The meeting report will shortly be available at: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/reports.asp>.

ICTSD internal files.

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## **Sanitary & Phytosanitary Measures**

### **SPS COMMITTEE ADOPTS PROPOSAL ON TRANSPARENCY OF S&D**

The Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) at its meeting on 2-3 April addressed a proposal by Canada on enhancing the transparency of special & differential treatment (S&D) of developing countries under the SPS Agreement. The proposal was generally seen as "one piece of the jigsaw puzzle" to address developing countries' difficulties in keeping up and conforming with SPS notifications.

Also of interest at the meeting were discussions on the EC's complaint regarding the Australian approval and risk assessment procedures, and a report submitted by China highlighting poor compliance by most countries with notification procedures.

### **One step forward in addressing S&D in the SPS Agreement**

The Canadian proposal, adopted in principle at the SPS meeting, consists of two components (G/SPS/W/127, available at <http://docsonline.wto.org/>). First, Members that may be affected by a notified measure under the SPS Agreement are encouraged to enter into bilateral consultations with the notifying Member in an effort to address any issues of concern. The result of these consultations could be specific S&D treatment with respect to the notified measure or other mutually-acceptable solutions. Second, in order to ensure transparency, the

result of the bilateral discussions would be reported in an Addendum submitted by the notifying Member, specifying the S&D treatment requested and provided. Canada stressed that its proposal aimed to recognise the practical difficulties of anticipating in advance who the importers would be for what products.

The proposal had been submitted in response to a suggestion by Egypt to include a box in the notification form for countries to state what S&D measures were included to facilitate compliance with the notified SPS measure (see BRIDGES Weekly, 26 March 2002). While welcoming Canada's proposal, several countries, including Egypt, the Philippines, Malaysia and India, noted the need to continue discussions on this issue, both with regard to the procedural details of the notification procedure and other measures that could be implemented to support developing countries' efforts to comply with SPS measures. These countries have repeatedly expressed concerns over difficulties to pinpoint and react to notifications of particular concern to them due to the large number of notifications submitted by Members.

### **Other matters**

The EC, supported by several South-East Asian countries and others, raised concerns regarding Australia's lengthy risk assessment and approval process. The disagreement had attracted significant attention in the past days due to the timing of the announcement that the EU would initiate dispute settlement proceedings in this regard. Even before launching the proceedings, which are now underway, the European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy had made public the EU's intention to challenge "Australia's protectionist food import regime". The announcement was made on 31 March, the deadline for finalising the agriculture modalities, prompting Australia to accuse the EU of diversionary tactics to detract attention from its intransigent position and the resulting lack of progress in the agriculture negotiations. Rather than dealing with specific products, the EC has requested the WTO to examine the Australian quarantine system for imports of agricultural products, the slow speed of which has repeatedly frustrated a number of countries in the past.

According to a report submitted by China at the meeting, many Members do not give the recommended 60 days comment period for routine SPS notifications. Members agreed that they should conduct informal discussions on how to address this issue. China had compiled the report in response to criticism of its notification practices by Canada and the US at the November SPS Committee meeting. At the meeting, China, supported by Mexico, had noted widespread problems with regard to late notifications that allowed only limited time for comment. Similar criticism had also arisen in the context of China's biotech regulations. Argentina, Canada and the US had criticised the country for not providing sufficient time for comments and compliance when publishing the regulations on 7 January 2002 and for not developing the regulations in a transparent way (BRIDGES Trade BioRes, 4 April 2002).

ICTSD reporting; "European Union to challenge Australia's protectionist food import regime at WTO," EU PRESS RELEASE, 31 March 2003.

### **In Brief**

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#### **ICPM SEEKS CLARIFICATION OF TERMS USED IN MULTIPLE FORA**

The Interim Commission for Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) met for its fifth session from 7-11 April in Rome, Italy. The ICPM adopted several guidelines -- following minor modifications -- including on the use of irradiation as a phytosanitary measure and on environmental risks in relation to pest risk analysis for quarantine pests. An ICPM source noted that the negotiations generally went smoothly, however the use of terminology remained a challenge and a concern to delegates. The ICPM mainly utilises terminology used under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and some delegates were concerned over the use of these definitions in different fora. Several delegates highlighted the difficulty states that have signed on to multiple international agreements

face. The ICPM made recommendations for future work at both national levels and between secretariats to clarify the terms used.

The ICPM currently functions as an interim body until the revised text of the IPPC comes into force. Once in force, the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures will take over from the ICPM as the IPPC's governing body. The IPPC aims "to secure common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control".

Meeting documents are available online, and final documents will be available shortly. To view the documents, visit: <http://www.ippc.int/IPP/En/Archive/Icpm5/ICPM5.htm>.

ICTSD internal files.

## PEOPLE'S CONGRESS CALLS FOR LAND, FOOD WITHOUT POISON

The first congress of the Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN-AP) gathered 140 participants representing 17 countries on 1-4 April in Manila, the Philippines, to discuss solutions concerning the use of genetic engineering, harmful fertilisers and pesticides and their effects on resources necessary for the sustainability of food production. The delegates, representing people's movements including peasants, women, agricultural workers, indigenous peoples, fishers, rural youth and others, stressed that the spread of corporate farming brought on by trade liberalisation is leading to the displacement of peasant farmers and an increase in the use of pesticides and fertilisers. The major outcome of the meeting -- the Manila Declaration of Land and Food Without Poisons: People's Rights and People's Empowerment -- called for food and agriculture to be removed from the jurisdiction of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The congress also contended that agrochemical corporations play a significant role in the perpetuation of the destruction of agricultural resources through their control over means of production, and declared the need to make them accountable for their actions. Delegates agreed that genuine agrarian and fisheries reform and freedom from pesticides, genetically modified organisms, and food irradiation were key factors in improving the sustainability of agriculture for the future.

To view the Manila Declaration, visit: <http://www.panap.net/whatnew1.cfm?hiliteid=HILITE11&id=24>.

"People's congress urges land, food without poisons," ENVIRONMENT NEWS SERVICE, 7 April 2003.

## HUMAN GENOME MAP COMPLETED

On 13 April scientists from the Human Genome Project announced that they had decoded nearly 100% of the human genome structure, almost two years ahead of schedule. The scientists said they have identified the almost three billion letters of genetic codes in the human DNA structure, and hold the key to understanding a great variety of diseases. The project has already assisted scientists in discovering a mutation causing a predisposition to illnesses such as leukaemia and diabetes. Jane Rogers, Head of sequencing at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, likened this success to "moving from a first attempt demo music tape to a classic CD". Already three years ago 97% of the human DNA was decoded, and this information -- announced in June 2000 -- has been freely available to scientists on the internet, with thousands of experts downloading the information to start bio-medical research projects. However, scientists and the pharmaceutical industry are now facing the challenge of moving from a point at which they can identify a malfunctioning gene, to a point at which they can do something about it. Allan Bradley, Director of the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, noted the long road still ahead: "Completing the human genome is a vital step on a long road but the eventual health benefits could be phenomenal". Scientists are not planning to decode the remaining 2-3% of the DNA as this is considered to be too costly and no substantial holes are left.

"Human Genome Finally Complete," BBC News, 14 April, 2003; "Scientists Complete Human Genome Sequence," REUTERS, 13 April 2003.

## REVIVING THE TUNA-DOLPHIN DISPUTE?

On 10 April a federal judge in San Francisco ruled against an injunction from the Commerce Department aimed at softening the standards for selling tuna labelled "dolphin safe" in US stores. The finding from the Commerce Department would have allowed tuna caught by encircling dolphins -- are a good indicator of tuna stocks -- with nets to be labelled dolphin safe, as long as an observer would be able to testify that no dolphins were killed or injured in the process. The injunction from the Commerce Department had caused various strong reactions. On the one side, environmental groups were outraged by the proposal and argued that the government study on which the injunction was based underestimated dolphin deaths in relation to tuna fishing, and called for keeping dolphin-labelling rules as tight as possible. On the other side, the Mexican government is considering whether to bring the case to the Dispute Settlement System of the World Trade Organisation in order to pressure the US to give up its "de facto embargo" on tuna caught in Mexico, which has been in place since 1991.

"Mexico Considers Appealing US tuna-labelling ruling," REUTERS, 14 April 2003; "US Judge To Rule In Days On Dolphin-Safe Labels," REUTERS, 9 April 2003.

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## Events & Resources

### EVENTS

For a more comprehensive list of events in trade and sustainable development, please refer to ICTSD's web calendar at <http://www.ictsd.org/html/calendar.htm>. Please bear in mind that dates and times of WTO meetings are often changed, and that the WTO does not always announce the important informal meetings of the different bodies.

#### Coming up in the next two weeks

22-25 April, Geneva, Switzerland: 49TH MEETING OF THE CITES STANDING COMMITTEE. For more information contact: CITES Secretariat; tel: (41-22) 917-8139/40; fax: 797-3417; email: [cites@unep.ch](mailto:cites@unep.ch); Internet: <http://www.cites.org/eng/news/calendar.shtml>.

TEMPORARILY CANCELLED: 24-26 April, Beijing, China: WIPO SUMMIT ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY. This event will feature three days of discussion, reflection and comment on the key role of the intellectual property system in stimulating creativity and innovation to foster economic growth and social well-being through wealth creation and business development. For more information, contact: WIPO; email: [summit.china@wipo.int](mailto:summit.china@wipo.int); Internet: <http://www.wipo.org/summit-china/en/index.html>.

25-27 April, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova: FIRST EASTERN EUROPEAN REGIONAL SESSION OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FORUM. Organised by the World Conservation Union (IUCN). For more information contact: Ms. Caroline Martinet; tel: (41-22) 999-0001; fax: 999-0025; email: [caroline.martinet@iucn.org](mailto:caroline.martinet@iucn.org); Internet: [http://www.gbf.ch/present\\_session.asp?no=33&lg=EN](http://www.gbf.ch/present_session.asp?no=33&lg=EN).

28 avril 2003: ATELIER UNITAR/RIBIOS SUR LA BIOSÉCURITÉ. Lieu: Hôtel de Ville, Divonne-les-Bains. Pour plus d'informations, veuillez contacter Mme Berta Pesti, Environmental Law United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), tél: (41-22) 917-8519, fax: (41-22) 917-8047.

28-30 April, Vienna, Austria: FOURTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE PROTECTION OF FORESTS IN EUROPE. The European ministers responsible for forests will take further decisions to promote the progress towards the protection and sustainable management of forests in Europe. The Conference will be held under the joint chairmanship of Austria and Poland and is open to participants and observers of the MCPFE. For further information contact: Peter Mayer, Liaison Unit Vienna; tel: (43-1) 710-7702; fax: 710-7702-13; email: [liaison.unit@lu-vienna.at](mailto:liaison.unit@lu-vienna.at); Internet: <http://www.mcpfe.org>.

28 April - 2 May 2003, Ottawa, Canada: CODEX COMMITTEE ON FOOD LABELLING, 31ST SESSION. For more information visit: <http://www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp>.

28 April - 2 May, Copenhagen, Denmark: 6TH GOVERNING BOARD MEETING OF THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION FACILITY. Organised by the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF). In addition to the Governing Board meeting, there will be an inauguration for the new GBIF Secretariat building, a presentation of the Ebbe Nielsen Prize, and the first GBIF Science Symposium on Biodiversity Informatics. For more information contact: Mr. James Edwards; tel: (45) 3532-1470; fax: 3532-1480; email: [gbif@gbif.org](mailto:gbif@gbif.org); Internet: <http://www.gbif.org>.

28 April - 9 May, New York, US: UNITED NATIONS' COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, 11TH SESSION. This will be the first meeting on sustainable development since the Johannesburg Summit. It will seek to give political direction to the implementation of the Johannesburg outcomes, Agenda 21, and the next phase of the Commission's work. For more information visit: [http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd11/csd11\\_2003.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd11/csd11_2003.htm).

29 April, Imperial College, London: THE FUTURE OF BIOTECHNOLOGY: A BAPTISM BY FIRE FOR THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION. As part of the lecture series on international and European environmental law, the British Institute of International and Comparative Law & IC Legal Environmental Affairs Centre, Imperial College London, is hosting a conference on biotechnology. For more information contact: Meetings Secretary, tel: (44-20) 7862 5163; fax: 7862 5152; email: [info@biicl.org](mailto:info@biicl.org).

29-30 April, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT. For further information, contact: the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739- 5007; fax: 739-5458; email: [enquiries@wto.org](mailto:enquiries@wto.org).

29-30 April, Geneva, Switzerland: WTO SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COUNCIL FOR TRADE-RELATED ASPECTS OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS. For further information, contact: the WTO Information and Media Relations Division, Geneva; tel: (41-22) 739- 5007; fax: 739-5458; email: [enquiries@wto.org](mailto:enquiries@wto.org).

### **Other Forthcoming Events**

12-17 May, Panama City, Panama: INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL (ITTC), 34TH SESSION. The First Preparatory Committee for the negotiations of the Successor Agreement to ITTA, 1994, will also convene on these dates. For more information contact: Alastair Sarre, ITTO Secretariat; tel: (81-45) 223-1110; fax: 223-1111; email: [editor@itto.or.jp](mailto:editor@itto.or.jp); Internet: <http://www.itto.or.jp>.

19-23 May, Bonn, Germany: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RURAL LIVELIHOODS, FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY. Organised by the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the German Foundation for International Development (DSE), Germany's Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and 'Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ). This conference will consider the role of forests in supporting rural livelihoods in developing countries and in maintaining biodiversity. Key objectives are to survey current knowledge and identify policy lessons and a future research strategy. For more information contact: William Sunderlin; tel: (251) 622-622; fax: 622-100; email: [w.sunderlin@cgiar.org](mailto:w.sunderlin@cgiar.org); Internet: <http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/shared/template/livelihoodconference.asp>.

19-20 May, London, United Kingdom: CONFERENCE ON FOOD PRODUCTION AND THE NEW TRADE AGENDA. This two-day conference, hosted by the Royal Institute for International Affairs (RIIA), will address questions related to food production, transportation, and sales. For more information contact: RIIA; tel: (44-20) 7957-5700; fax: 7957-5710; email: [contact@riia.org](mailto:contact@riia.org); Internet: <http://www.riia.org>.

21-23 May, London, United Kingdom: 2010: THE BIODIVERSITY CHALLENGE. This second "Biodiversity after Johannesburg" meeting will follow up on the first that was held from 2-4 March 2003.

Organized by the CBD, UNEP-WCMC and UNDP, it is intended to lead to an improved understanding of what the CBD target of significantly reducing biodiversity loss by 2010 actually means in real terms, and how to know whether the targets have been achieved. For more information contact: Jerry Harrison, UNEP, World Conservation Monitoring Centre; email: [Jerry.Harrison@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:Jerry.Harrison@unep-wcmc.org); Internet: <http://www.unep-wcmc.org>.

26 May - 6 June, Geneva Switzerland: THIRD SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS (UNFF-3). Delegates will discuss a variety of issues, including: means of implementation; progress in implementation, specifically related to economic aspects of forests, forest health and productivity, and maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs; and common items. For more information contact: Mia Soderlund, UNFF Secretariat; tel: (1-212) 963-3262; fax: 963-4260; email: [unff@un.org](mailto:unff@un.org); Internet: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/forests.htm>.

5-9 September, Sydney, Australia: 19TH WORLD ENERGY CONGRESS. This congress will focus on key energy issues covering a wide range of topics within the energy industry. The Congress will include oral and poster sessions, workshops, tutorials, symposia and panel sessions. For more information contact: 19th World Energy Congress Managers; tel: (612) 9248-0800; fax: 9248-0894; email: [energy2004@tourhosts.com.au](mailto:energy2004@tourhosts.com.au); Internet: <http://www.tourhosts.com.au/energy2004/>.

## RESOURCES

If you have a relevant resource (books, papers, bulletins, etc.) you would like to see announced in this section, please forward a copy or review by the BRIDGES staff to Heike Baumüller, [hbaumuller@ictsd.ch](mailto:hbaumuller@ictsd.ch).

POST-DOHA AFRICAN CHALLENGES IN THE SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY AND TRADE RELATED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AGREEMENT. By H. Nyangito, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), 2002. This paper analyses the challenges faced by sub-Saharan Africa with regard to trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPS) and sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS), with a focus on the post-Doha negotiating environment. The TRIPS agreement sets a minimum standard for the protection of intellectual property rights, and the SPS agreement stipulates rules in relation to the health of plants, animals, and their products, which might restrict international trade. The paper argues that, even though sub-Saharan Africa has more WTO negotiating power now than ever before, the challenges of the Doha round need to be taken into account and opportunities exploited in order for Africa to benefit from trade liberalisation. Available at <http://www.kippira.org/Download/OPNo4.pdf>.

MAINSTREAMING NATURE CONSERVATION IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC: THE NGO EXPERIENCE. By the WWF - South Pacific Programme. This handbook uses several case studies to demonstrate the extensive work of civil society and NGO sectors around the Pacific in their contribution to the mainstreaming nature conservation. The handbook is available at: <http://www.dev-zone.org/cgi-bin/links2/jump.cgi?ID=4994>.

REGULATING GMOS IN DEVELOPING AND TRANSITION COUNTRIES. By the FAO Working Group on Biotechnology, April 2003. This document provides background material related to an e-mail forum on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in agriculture and food. It covers forestry and livestock sectors, fisheries, and the agro-industry. For more information, please visit: <http://www.fao.org/biotech/C9doc.htm>; or email: [biotech-admin@fao.org](mailto:biotech-admin@fao.org).

ISSUES LINKED TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN THE WTO NEGOTIATIONS: IMPLEMENTING DOHA MANDATES. By David Eugui, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL). This document analyses the mandates related to the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The author argues that the TRIPS Agreement is affecting the fulfilment of the CBD in areas such as: the primacy

of private rights over public rights; the recognition of intellectual property rights that use genetic resources and traditional knowledge without prior informed consent or benefit sharing; reduction of plant diversity; and the gradual use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Available at [http://www.ciel.org/Publications/Note\\_CBD\\_EDITEDversion.pdf](http://www.ciel.org/Publications/Note_CBD_EDITEDversion.pdf).

**HANDBOOK OF BIODIVERSITY VALUATION: A GUIDE FOR POLICY MAKERS.** By OECD. This handbook focuses on the nature of values associated with biodiversity and the different approaches that can be adopted to assign values for policy purposes. It uses a variety of case studies to illustrate the valuation process in OECD countries. The document can be ordered at: <http://www.oecd.org/bookshop>.

**PLANT AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH: THE IMPACT OF IPRS ON BIOTECHNOLOGY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.** By the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), 2002. This meeting report shares the results of discussions held during an expert workshop organised by FAO. The document focuses on intellectual property rights (IPRs) policy strategies for agricultural biotechnology at the international, national, and institutional levels. It also covers the experts' discussion about the possibility of establishing an international biotechnology policy network. Available at <http://www.fao.org/biotech/docs/torvergatareport.htm>.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY** by Glover, D. et al. produced by the United Nations Environment Programme (2003). The report summarises a study of the ways in which different countries have sought to promote and facilitate public awareness and participation in the design and implementation of their national biosafety frameworks (NBFs). The aim of this study is to assist policy-makers by identifying and assessing a range of tools and approaches that may help to promote and facilitate public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms. Available at <http://www.unep.ch/biosafety/PublicParticipationIDS.pdf>.

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