

# *Public Research & Regulation*

Foundation with the objective to involve the public research sector in regulations and international agreements relevant to modern biotechnology

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## **MOP3 – PRRI closing statement**

Thank you Madam Chair,

I speak on behalf of the Foundation for Public Research and Regulation.

Madam Chair, a major goal of our participation in this meeting has been to make the delegates aware that a substantial part of the research on modern biotechnology is conducted for the public good in public research institutes worldwide. In addition, we hoped to make the negotiators aware of the concerns of public researchers that certain proposals on the table will cause unnecessary restrictions for public research and its applications.

It was with pleasure, Madam Chair, that we could make available the wealth of expertise of the many scientists of our group to delegations in this meeting, and we were very encouraged by the increasing number of delegates that have engaged us in discussions of a scientific nature.

Madam Chair, we still note a widespread misconception that LMOs are inherently dangerous. We underline that science based decisions are a requirement for the resolution of the pending issues.

While our members agree there is need for appropriate regulation of this technology to ensure its safe use, we are troubled by the fact that the potentially significant benefits of modern biotechnology have not been adequately recognized in this forum, despite the fact that the basis of the Cartagena Protocol is article 19 of the Convention, which addresses the handling of biotechnology and the distribution of its benefits. The expectation of benefiting from the technology also is underlined in the Preamble of the Protocol.

I take this opportunity Madam Chair, to urge the delegates, in preparing themselves for MOP4, to keep an open eye for the broader context of the protocol which is that modern biotechnology has great potential for human well-being, and that it will be a serious and irreversible disservice to our future generations if we were to block research in this field with disproportionate regulations.

Having said this, Madam Chair, I wish to end my intervention by assuring you and the delegations of our full commitment for the difficult task ahead in achieving a balanced implementation of the Protocol, in order to allow society to reap the benefits of this technology while at the same time ensuring an adequate level of safety.

I thank you very much for your attention.