

Public Research & Regulation

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

MOP3 - PRRI STATEMENT ON CAPACITY BUILDING

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

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

Mr. Chairman, we believe that appropriate capacity building is key to the effective and efficient implementation of national biosafety regulations and the Biosafety Protocol, and we are therefore pleased with the massive interest of donor countries and organisations in capacity building projects.

Having said this, Mr. Chairman, it is also apparent that many capacity building projects are duplicative and do not always seem to be focused on the effective and immediate implementation needs for the biosafety protocol.

We therefore strongly recommend that the following points be taking into account in ongoing and future biosafety capacity building projects:

- Projects need to be based on detailed expert identification of the prioritised needs of countries and that countries are ill-served by a ‘one size fits all’ approach,
- The needs and priorities of countries need to be translated into clear, feasible implementation targets
- Coordination between donors and recipients should be much more effective and their decision-making processes should be more rigorous to avoid duplications of ongoing or planned projects;
- Quality criteria for project proposals and for executing agencies are needed; capacity building projects should be carried out by executing agencies with substantial ‘hands-on’ experience in implementing biosafety systems;
- There is a need for an upfront assessment of the self-sustainability of the projects and of the institutions involved;
- National projects are encouraged to also foster regional or sub-regional alignment to reduce redundancy.

Mr. Chairman, the Foundation for Public Research and Regulation remains available if you wish to explore these issues further.

Thank you for your attention.