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REPORT OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY TO THE COMMISSION ON PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES AT ITS TWELFTH SESSION

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The United Nations Biodiversity Conference,¹ held in Cancun, Mexico, comprised the three ordinary meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Protocols, held concurrently from 4 to 17 December 2016: (a) the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP13); (b) the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CP COP-MOP 8); and (c) the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (NP COP-MOP 2); and (d) a high-level ministerial segment hosted by the Government of Mexico was held immediately prior to the three concurrent meetings.

2. The present report contains a summary of the outcomes of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference as they relate to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and its Contracting Parties in section II. Information on the collaborative activities between the Secretariats of IPPC and CBD undertaken during the intersessional period between the eleventh and the twelfth sessions of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures is presented in section III. Other matters are shown in section IV.

II. SUMMARY OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE IN RELEVANCE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION

A. The high-level ministerial segment

3. The high-level ministerial segment was held in Cancun, Mexico, on 2 and 3 December 2016, immediately prior to the opening of COP 13, CP COP-MOP 8 and NP COP-MOP 2. The segment addressed the mainstreaming of biodiversity into sectoral policy related to agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, and tourism. It was attended by ministers of environment and other heads of delegation and ministers, as well as other high-level representatives of the agriculture, tourism, fisheries and forestry sectors, as well as representatives of national and international organizations, local authorities and subnational governments, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities, and the youth.

4. The meeting adopted the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-Being ([UNEP/CBD/COP/13/24](https://www.unep.org/biodiversity/Portals/0/CBD_COP13/2016/13/24/20161203_Cancun_Declaration_on_Mainstreaming_the_Conservation_and_Sustainable_Use_of_Biodiversity_for_Well-Being.pdf)), to which the Guidance for Mainstreaming Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Tourism Sectors was annexed.

5. The Guidance states that biodiversity is the basis of agriculture as it is at the origin of all crops and domesticated livestock and the variety among them. Essential functions, such as nutrient cycling, decomposition of organic matter, soil formation and rehabilitation, pest and disease regulation, and pollination that benefit crop and livestock production, are maintained by ecosystems which are critical to sustain food production, nutrition and, therefore, human well-being. The Guidance describes appropriate actions to be taken in the sectors of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, as well as tourism, in order to ensure sustainability and protection of biodiversity in their practices.

¹ See <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2016>.

B. The thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Progress in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

6. In decision XIII/1,² the Conference of the Parties addressed, among other things, follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.³ Recognizing the need for a comprehensive and participatory process to develop proposals for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting, a proposal for a comprehensive and participatory preparatory process and timetable for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, providing for consultations among Parties, and with other Rio conventions, other biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, and inputs from indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders and sectors.

Progress towards the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12

7. In decision XIII/2,⁴ the Conference of the Parties invited the biodiversity-related conventions, international and regional organizations to promote integrated efforts to support the implementation of actions for the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 12. The Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to develop voluntary guidance related to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, noting lessons learned from the relevant biodiversity-related conventions and agreements.

Mainstreaming biodiversity

8. In decision XIII/3,⁵ the Conference of the Parties addressed strengthening the mainstreaming of biodiversity through relevant international processes, including: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals; cross-sectoral mainstreaming; sector-specific mainstreaming with regard to agriculture, forests, fisheries and aquaculture, and tourism; and the engagement of key actors to enhance mainstreaming, including business, subnational and local governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, the scientific community and with regard to gender mainstreaming.

9. Among other things, the Conference of the Parties called upon Parties and invited other Governments to take measures to support and ensure close linkages and reinforce synergies among biodiversity-related and other international processes and multilateral environmental agreements, to implement their various goals and commitments in a coherent, clear, and mutually supportive manner, and to include biodiversity considerations in their engagement in these various processes, where relevant, and to implement goals and commitments under the Convention and relevant international processes in a coherent manner.

10. In addition, the Conference of the Parties decided to consider, at its fourteenth meeting to be held in 2018, the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the following sectors: energy and mining; infrastructure; manufacturing and processing industry.

² Decision XIII/1 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-01-en.pdf>

³ Decision X/2 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-10/cop-10-dec-02-en.pdf>

⁴ Decision XIII/2 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-02-en.pdf>

⁵ Decision XIII/3, Strategic actions to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including with respect to mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity within and across sectors, <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-03-en.doc>

Invasive alien species: risks associated with trade in wildlife

11. In decision XIII/13,⁶ recognizing that the Guidance on Devising and Implementing Measures to Address the Risks Associated with the Introduction of Alien Species as Pets, Aquarium and Terrarium Species, and as Live Bait and Live Food,⁷ adopted by the Conference of the Parties in 2014, is an effective tool to address the risks associated with the trade in wildlife, the Conference of the Parties encouraged Parties and other Governments to review, as necessary, their national regulatory framework in order to develop and implement measures to ensure the safe import and prevention of spread of wildlife species and associated materials (such as packaging material and food) that can be pathways of introduction for invasive species, making use of appropriate risk analysis processes, as well as tools such as horizon scanning, which could consider drivers of trade, future trade patterns and potentially invasive alien species that may enter through trade.

12. In addition, the Executive Secretary was requested to prepare, in collaboration with the inter-agency liaison group on invasive alien species, which includes the secretariat of IPPC, draft supplemental guidance on unintentional introduction of alien species through “hitchhikers” or contaminants, and materials associated with the trade in live alien species, such as packing material, substrate or food. The draft will be considered by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Invasive alien species: risks associated with invasive alien species sold via e-commerce

13. In the same decision, Parties and other Governments were encouraged to reduce the risk associated with trade in invasive alien species sold via e-commerce, for example, by promoting greater awareness among consumers, e-commerce traders and managers and other stakeholders about the risk of biological invasions, and the relevant international standards and national regulations through, inter alia, e-commerce market places and related social media, among others. Parties and other Governments were also invited to take into account or review, as appropriate, legislation relevant to trade in wildlife to reduce the risk associated with trade via e-commerce.

14. The Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to explore with the World Customs Organization, as well as member organizations of the inter-agency liaison group on invasive alien species, including the Secretariat of IPPC, the need for tools or guidance for Parties that may assist national customs authorities in facilitating the necessary control of live alien species via e-commerce, building on the national experience or legislation related to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and its enforcement, and to develop such tools or guidance where appropriate.

Invasive alien species: the risk of invasive alien species moving with sea containers

15. With regard to the risk of invasive alien species moving with sea containers, in the same decision, Parties and other Governments were invited:

(a) To communicate and raise awareness about the risk of invasive alien species spread via sea containers, particularly with stakeholders involved in the packing or movement of sea containers;

(b) To make use of and raise awareness of the relevant parts of the Code of Practice for Packing of Cargo Transport Units, as appropriate;

(c) To collect information, as appropriate, on the movement of invasive alien species attached to sea containers, in addition to those with the cargo transported within the sea containers, as well as on bio-fouling and ballast water, and to share such information with a view to analysing, as

⁶ Decision XIII/13, Invasive alien species: addressing risks associated with trade, experiences in the use of biological control agents, and decision support tools, <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-13-en.doc>

⁷ Annex to decision XII/16 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-12/cop-12-dec-16-en.pdf>

appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, the potential risk of invasive alien species spread via sea containers and take proportionate actions to mitigate this risk;

(d) To join the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, as appropriate.

Invasive alien species: use of biological control agents to manage invasive alien species

16. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties elaborated the “Technical considerations for the use of biological control agents to manage invasive alien species” annexed to decision XIII/13, and invited Parties, other Governments, and as appropriate, standard-setting bodies recognized by the World Trade Organization, and other relevant organizations to adapt, improve or further develop tools, including decision support tools, for better development and application of biological control programmes against invasive alien species, including prioritization based on impacts, feasibility and likelihood of success of biological control, and the selection of the biological control agents.

17. Furthermore, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with IPPC, the World Organisation for Animal Health, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, other members of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species and other relevant organizations, such as the International Organization for Biological Control, to identify options for supplementing risk assessment and risk management standards for the use of biological control agents against invasive alien species, including in aquatic environments.

Synthetic biology

18. In decision XIII/17, the Conference of the Parties noted that the general principles and methodologies for risk assessment under the Cartagena Protocol and existing biosafety frameworks provide a good basis for risk assessment regarding living organisms developed through current applications of synthetic biology, or that are currently in the early stages of research and development, but such methodologies may need to be updated and adapted for current and future developments and applications of synthetic biology. In addition, the Conference of the Parties decided to extend the mandate of the current Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology with new terms of reference.

The financial mechanism

19. In decision XIII/21,⁸ the Conference of the Parties took note with appreciation of the elements of advice received from the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the International Treaty for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, as well as the input received from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora for consideration in the development of the four-year framework of programme priorities (2018-2022) for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund. Elements and input that fall within the mandate of the Global Environment Facility are reflected at a strategic level, in the four-year framework of programme priorities annexed to the decision.

20. The Conference of the Parties invited the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions, further to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of decision XII/30, to repeat the exercise described therein for the development of strategic guidance for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting.

Framework for a communications strategy

21. In decision XIII/22,⁹ the Conference of the Parties welcomed the framework for a global communications strategy contained in the annex to the decision. The framework recognizes the

⁸ Decision XIII/21 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-21-en.pdf>

⁹ Decision XIII/22 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-22-en.pdf>

importance of the biodiversity-related conventions to its implementation. Among other things, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, urged Parties, and invited other Governments and relevant organizations to promote synergies, in accordance with Conference of the Parties decision XIII/24 on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations, when facilitating and implementing communication activities.

Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and the clearing-house mechanism

22. In decision XIII/23,¹⁰ the Conference of the Parties adopted the Short-term Action Plan (2017-2020) to Enhance and Support Capacity-Building for the Implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, which was contained in the annex to the decision. The Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to continue work to promote a more integrated and coordinated approach to capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation, through multiple partnerships, including with biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant conventions. The Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary, urged Parties, and invited other Governments and relevant organizations to promote synergies in accordance with decision XIII/24¹¹ on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations, when facilitating and implementing capacity-building activities.

23. Several of the activities included in the short-term action plan, to be implemented subject to the availability of resources, would be relevant to other biodiversity-related conventions and would benefit from dialogue and possible collaboration among their secretariats. These include the development and maintenance of a capacity development web portal and online searchable database for relevant initiatives, resources and opportunities, and leveraging capacity-building and synergy among conventions through the expanded constituency workshops of the Global Environment Facility.

Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations

24. In decision XIII/24,¹² the Conference of the Parties welcomed options for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level and a road map for actions at the international level from 2017 to 2020, each contained in the annex to the decision and based on the consultative process undertaken in 2015-2016, the material presented to the Conference of the Parties in the related note by the Secretariat,¹² and the discussions held during the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

25. The Conference of Parties invited the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions to further strengthen cooperation and coordination at the global level within their respective mandates and enhance synergies among themselves, to encourage mutually supportive decisions, pursue their efforts to align their own strategies with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, where appropriate, and to support implementation of the options for action by Parties and the road map contained in the annex to the decision.

26. The Executive Secretary was requested, in consultation with the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, to enter information missing from a table of desirable key actions associated with the road map for enhancing synergies at the international level from 2017 to 2020, which is contained in annex to the decision, specify a timeline for the various actions identified, and, where possible, undertake the actions described in the table. The Executive Secretary was also requested to transmit the road map to the relevant bodies of the other conventions with a view to facilitating the implementation of the actions.

¹⁰ Decision XIII/23 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-23-en.pdf>

¹¹ Decision XIII/24, Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations, <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-24-en.doc>

¹² UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15.

27. The Conference of the Parties, furthermore, invited the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, the governing bodies of the conventions, and the international organizations that provide the secretariats for these conventions and other relevant international organizations, to undertake, where appropriate and subject to the availability of resources, the actions foreseen in the road map.

28. The Conference of the Parties also called on the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions to continue to work to enhance cooperation and synergies among the conventions and to cooperate closely in this regard with relevant international organizations.

National reporting

29. In decision XIII/27,¹³ the Conference of the Parties adopted the guidelines, including the reporting templates, for the sixth national report and requested the Executive Secretary to finalize the resource manual for the sixth national report, taking into account, among other relevant elements, guidance on common data sources, indicators and other relevant information provided by the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, and to make it available through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention and other means.

30. The Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions and Rio conventions, to explore options for enhancing synergy on national reporting among these conventions, including consideration of the following possibilities: (a) common sets of indicators, where appropriate; (b) common reporting modules on shared issues; (c) interoperability of information management and reporting systems, and; (d) harmonization of tools for national reporting.

Global Biodiversity Outlook and Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity-related Conventions

31. In decision XIII/29, the Conference of the Parties decided to initiate the preparation for a fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, which, among other things, should include an analysis of the contribution of progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets to the Sustainable Development Goals, draw upon official and the best available scientific information, such as information from the other biodiversity-related conventions, and be developed in a manner that avoids duplication with other processes. The Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a work plan for its preparation for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at a meeting prior to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a joint communication strategy with the secretariats of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and biodiversity-related conventions on the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and related reports and products and relevant deliverables of the Platform, and invited the secretariats of the Platform and the other biodiversity-related conventions to collaborate on this matter.

Key scientific and technical needs related to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and related research

32. In decision XIII/31, the Conference of the Parties, among other things, requested the Executive Secretary to develop, through the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and in collaboration with other relevant organizations, actions for an enhanced collaborative framework to guide the work of the conventions and their partners and to assist Parties in meeting Aichi Biodiversity Target 12, subject to the availability of resources.

¹³ Decision XIII/27 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-27-en.pdf>

C. The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Cooperation with other organizations, conventions and initiatives

33. In decision CP-VIII/2, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol welcomed the cooperation of the Executive Secretary with the International Plant Protection Convention and with FAO and underlined the importance of cooperation and coordination among relevant organizations, multilateral agreements and initiatives for the effective implementation of the Protocol and the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for the period 2011-2020, adopted by COP-MOP at its fifth meeting. In decision CP-VIII/15, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol requested the Executive Secretary to further enhance cooperation and collaboration in biosafety with relevant organizations.

Risk assessment and risk management

In decision CP-VIII/12, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol took note of the voluntary Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms and invited interested Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to take the Guidance into account as a voluntary tool to assist in conducting risk assessment in accordance with the Cartagena Protocol and established a process to evaluate to address the needs, priorities and gaps identified by Parties with regard to further guidance on specific topics of risk assessment of living modified organisms.

Unintentional transboundary movements and emergency measures

34. In decision CP-VIII/16, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol adopted operational definitions of the terms “unintentional transboundary movement” and “illegal transboundary movement” and deemed it appropriate to use the terms for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the Protocol. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol also took note of the draft training manual on the detection and identification of living modified organisms and encouraged Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to submit to the Biosafety Clearing-House information on methods for the detection and identification of living modified organisms, with special emphasis on validated methods.

III. THE COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES OF THE TWO SECRETARIATS RELATED TO THE PHYTOSANITARY AND OTHER SETS OF MEASURES FOR BIODIVERSITY

A. Collaboration in the framework of the liaison group of biodiversity-related conventions

35. The eleventh ordinary meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions was held, with the participation of the Secretariat of IPPC, at the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals in Bonn, Germany, on 23 August 2016. The Executive Secretary of the CBD also convened a meeting by audio/video-conference on 25 January 2017, with the participation of the Secretary and relevant staff of IPPC Secretariat, to brief the members of the Liaison Group on the outcomes of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

B. Invasive alien species

36. In line with decisions IX/4, XI/28 and XII/17 on the requested collaborative works by the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity organized a capacity-building workshop for small island developing States in the Pacific regarding Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 on invasive alien species. The workshop was held in Apia from 8 to 12 August 2016. The national plant

protection organizations in the Pacific region, together with the CBD authorities in the region participated in the workshop. The outcome of the workshop included some comprehensive invasive alien species and pest management project logical frameworks,¹⁴ with which the countries should formulate full project proposals that may fit to apply to the Global Environment Facility and/or Standard and Trade Development Facility, as appropriate.

37. The seventh meeting of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species was hosted by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the venue of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, in Cancun, Mexico, on 30 November 2016.¹⁵ The meeting concluded that the area of collaborative work in 2017-2018, subject to the availability of funding, could include:

(a) Support for, or the organization of, capacity development events for Parties within the mandates of each Convention;

(b) Development of an explanatory guide on the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), building on the existing Convention toolkit for invasive alien species management;

(c) Continuing information exchange on possible risk reduction measures in relation to e-commerce and other guidance/standard-setting processes of the two secretariats.

C. The Global Taxonomy Initiative

38. In line with decision XI/29 and in collaboration with the international Barcode of Life project, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity organized a series of training-of-trainers courses to apply DNA sequence-based rapid species identification for the purpose of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in 2015-16. Trainees from 52 developing countries received online training course on DNA barcoding, and the 29 of the trainees who had successfully completed the online training course were invited to a hands-on laboratory training session made possible by generous financial support from the Government of Japan. Under this training course national plant protection organizations were invited to nominate trainees through the CBD national focal points. There were three trainees representing national plant protection organizations who completed hands-on training in 2016.

39. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has shared information on the process for the review of diagnostic protocols with the expert community of the Global Taxonomy Initiative, and their voluntary contribution to the IPPC standard-setting process has been encouraged.

D. Compilation of terms used

40. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is preparing a compilation of terms used under the Cartagena Protocol and other instruments and organizations with relevance to biosafety, including IPPC, Codex Alimentarius, FAO, OECD and OIE. The compilation of terms is expected to be ready for review by mid-2017.

IV. Other matters

41. Ms. Cristiana Pașca Palmer of Romania has been appointed the new Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. She will take up her duties at the Secretariat of the Convention in Montreal, Canada, on 20 March 2017.

¹⁴ UNEP/CBD/COP/13/INF/34 <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/information/cop-13-inf-34-en.pdf>

¹⁵ The report of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species on its seventh meeting will be posted on <https://www.cbd.int/invasive/lg/default.shtml>.