**GENERAL FINDINGS AND LESSONS LEARNED**

The following are some of the overall findings and lessons learned with regard to the implementation of the Action Plan:

**Awareness of Action Plan**

* Awareness of the Action Plan is crucial to ensuring that capacity-building activities remain strategic, focused and responsive to the distinctive needs of each Party. However, there are still a number of National Focal Points that are unaware of the Action Plan.

**Funding Issues**

* Providing adequate funding is key to ensuring that Parties effectively implement the Action Plan. A number of Parties have been unable to allocate adequate resources, thus affecting the implementation of the NBFs and the Action Plan.
* The roster of experts remains underutilized, mostly as a result of the lack of funds.
* Although the Action Plan outlines a number of key elements for capacity-building, most bilateral and multilateral organizations have their own agendas regarding biosafety, which has had consequences with regard to the provision of opportunities for funding and joint collaboration.

**Training & Workshop**

* The BCH is a useful tool that has been valued by Parties. If training for the BCH focal point is not provided on a continuous basis, the BCH will not be able to be kept up to date and to keep up with the turnover rate of the BCH focal points.
* Overall, workshops and trainings have provided useful tools for capacity-building for biosafety.

**Regional Approaches**

* Regional approaches to capacity-building have provided a valuable opportunity for Parties to exchange information, including success stories and lessons learned.

**Others**

* ~~Overall, workshops and trainings have provided useful tools for capacity-building for biosafety.~~
* Providing indicators to monitor progress without providing a proper monitoring framework can lead to ambiguity and consequently to their inapplicability.
* The omission of sustainability measures in the Action Plan somehow compromises the long-term impact of its implementation.