



**PRRI Statement on public awareness, education and participation**

Thank you Madam Chair,

I speak on behalf of the Public Research and Regulation Initiative (PRRI).

PRRI very much believes in the need to strengthen public awareness, education and participation.

As the Cartagena Protocol recognizes in its Preamble: “modern biotechnology has great potential for human well-being if developed and used with adequate safety measures for the environment and human health.”

In practice this means that as we develop public awareness, education and participation we should focus on the potential for human well-being as well as adequate safety measures.

While we acknowledge that Governments do indeed spend resources on public awareness, education and participation in relation to the Cartagena Protocol, PRRI notes with great concern that this investment is not nearly sufficient to make a difference in the public’s understanding of the potential that biotechnology has to serve the needs of our planet.

We therefore call upon all governments to greatly intensify public awareness, education and participation in relation to biotechnology’s great potential for human well-being, as well as for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, as referenced in article 23 of the Protocol.

Thank you Madam Chair