



PRRI statement on Socio-Economic considerations

Thank you Madam Chair,

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

Mme Chair, it is precisely because of the anticipated socio-economic benefits for human wellbeing and the environment that many public researchers and biotechnology students are dedicated to research in modern biotechnology.

PRRI welcomes initiatives to provide conceptual clarity about article 26, but urges that discussions stay within the scope of Article 26, and stay mindful of what article 26 actually says:

- Article 26 is about decision making, not about risk assessment.
- Article 26 relates to a possibility for Parties, not an obligation.
- Article 26 underlines the need for consistent with their international obligations. One of those obligations is the SPS requirement that decisions are grounded on a scientific and evidence basis.
- Article 26 is restricted to “*socio-economic considerations arising from the impact of LMOs on the conservation*”. This wording again underlines the need for a scientific basis, and we should remain aware that the term “impacts” covers both potential benefits and risks.

Thank you Madam Chair,