

## PRRI statement on Socio-Economic considerations

Thank you Madam Chair,

I speak on behalf of the delegation of the Public Research and Regulation Initiative, PRRI.

Madam Chair,

Many public sector scientists dedicate their career to research in modern biotechnology because of the social, economic and environmental benefits.

PRRI welcomes initiatives to provide conceptual clarity about article 26, but urges that discussions remain 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 decisions from Parties to be consistent with their international obligations.
- Article 26 focuses on “*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 perceived risks.

Thank you Madam Chair,