



REPORT ON THE MALAWI BIOSAFETY LEGISLATION REVIEW

1.0 Introduction

The Malawi Government in April 2011, with financial support from the African Union Commission, undertook a review of the Biosafety Act of 2002 and Biosafety (Management of Genetically Modified Organisms) Regulations of 2007. At a stakeholders' workshop to review the draft Bill and regulations, it was observed, among other issues, that there was need to sensitize and consult widely and involve as many stakeholders as possible for a general buy-in and further input to the legislation. Following this recommendation, and other recommendations that came out from the workshop, the Environmental affairs Department embarked on an exercise to address the suggestions and observations made by the stakeholders.

2.0 Methodology

A review team incorporated the comments to the draft bill and regulations to reflect the observations and comments made at the Stakeholders' workshop. Thereafter, the legislation was circulated to stakeholders prior to a national workshop. A national workshop was conducted from June 5-6, (see Annex A: list of participants) and comments and observations were obtained and incorporated into the final draft legislation. Attached also are the draft Bill and Regulations.

3.0 Way Forward and Conclusion

The final draft Bill and Regulations have since been forwarded to the Ministry of Justice for finalization before being sent to Parliament for enactment. The Government of Malawi, through the Environmental Affairs Department is extremely grateful for the financial support from the AUC and looks forward to similar collaboration in the near future.

ANNEX A: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS TO STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE REVIEW OF THE MALAWI BIOSAFETY LEGISLATION, LINDE MOTEL, MPONELA, 5 - 6TH JUNE, 2012.

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Annex B: