



## The Council of Ministries Resolution No. 2 of 2012 on the Organization of the National Committee on Biosafety

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### Articles (1-9)



The Council of Ministries;

After perusing the Constitution;

Emiri Resolution No. 29 of 1996 on the Council of Ministries Resolutions submitted to the Emir for approval;

Emiri Resolution No. 39 of 2009 on the Organizational Structure of the Ministry of Environment;

Decree No. 90 of 1996 ratifying the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 1992;

The instrument of Qatar's accession to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity issued on 5/01/2006;

The Council of Ministries Resolution No. 9 of 1993 on the Organization of the Joint and Specialized Committee and the amending Resolutions;

The Resolution of the Chairperson of the Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Reserves (SCENR) No. 11 of 2007 on the composition of the National Committee on Biosafety and the Determination of its Functions as amended by Resolution of the Environment Minister No. 6 of 2008; and

The proposal of the Environment Minister;

Has decided as follows:

### **Articles**

## Article 1

The National Committee on Biosafety shall be composed as follows:

Assistant General Secretary for Environmental Affairs - Ministry of Environment  
- Chairperson.

The Manager of Biotechnology Centre - Ministry of Environment - Deputy  
Chairperson.

Manager of Livestock Department - Ministry of Environment - member.

Manager of Agricultural Affairs Department - Ministry of Environment - member.

Representative of Standardization and Metrology Department - Ministry of  
Environment - member.

Representative of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community  
Development - member.

Representative of Ministry of Municipality and Urban Planning - member.

Representative of Consumer Protection Department in the Ministry of Business and  
Trade - member.

Representative of the Customs General Directorate in the Ministry of Economic and  
Finance - member.

Representative of Natural Reserves Sector in the private Engineering Office -  
member.

Representative of the Supreme Health Council - member.

Representative of Qatar University - member.

Representative of the Department of Natural Reserves and Wildlife - member and  
Rapporteur.

Each body shall select its representative on the Committee and the nomination of  
Committee members shall be according to a Resolution issued by the Minister of  
Environment.

The Committee shall have a secretary assisted by a number of employees of the  
Ministry of Environment, and their delegation, functions and remuneration shall be  
determined according to a Resolution issued by the Minister of Environment.

## Article 2

The term of membership shall be for three years renewable for similar period(s).

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## Article 3

The Committee shall have the following functions:

Proposing policies regarding biosafety and determining the procedures that govern biotechnology in order to find a secure policy for research related to genetic modification.

Approving the national framework for biosafety.

Performing risk evaluation for genetically modified organisms and products.

Preparing the rules and regulations of importing genetically modified organisms or products.

Approving the instructions related to the entry and marketing of genetically modified organisms in the State and undertaking the procedures that ensure the reduction of hazards resulting therefrom.

Undertaking the necessary procedures to issue the licenses for importing genetically modified organisms and products into the State.

Observing the activities related to the local circulation, transport and exploitation of genetically modified organisms and products in the State.

Approving the instructions related to biotechnology applications in the area of research in the State.

Proposing the draft legal instruments related to biosafety in the State.

Undertaking the necessary procedures to develop awareness and disseminate information related to biosafety issues in the community.

Providing technical consultation on biosafety regarding genetically modified organisms and products.

Coordinating and following up with the competent authorities in the GCC countries regarding the entry, marketing, research and study of genetically modified organisms.

Following up the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

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## Article 4

1. The Committee shall convene, according to the Chairperson's invitation, once every three months and whenever necessary. The meeting shall not be valid unless attended by the majority of members, provided that the Chairperson or his deputy shall be present. The Committee shall issue its Resolutions by majority vote. Where there is a deadlock, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote.

The Committee shall develop a system for its work that includes the dates of meetings and the rules necessary for the conduct of its work.

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## Article 5

The Committee may, whenever it deems necessary, invite to its meetings for consultation any competent and experienced persons from the Ministries and other governmental organs. Such invited persons shall, however, have no right to vote.

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## Article 6

The Committee shall form sub-committees from its members or other technicians in their areas of specialization or it may assign one of its members to study any of the subjects that fall within its competence. The Committee may seek the assistance of employees of other governmental organs or any other persons who have competence and experience to provide data or explanations.

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## Article 7

The Committee shall submit a report of the results of its work, together with its recommendations and suggestions, annually to the Minister of Environment.

## Article 8

1. With the exception of inhabited places, the staff referred to in Article 5 herein may access places in which there are substances or goods subject to the provisions of this Resolution, and they may examine books, documents, invoices and papers relating to those substances or goods.

They may also take samples of such substances or goods in accordance with the rules issued by a decision of the Minister of Economy and Commerce, and analyse them at any of the competent State laboratories to ensure their compliance with the prescribed standard specifications. Such staff may also temporarily confiscate the substances or goods from which samples are taken and deposit them in the custody and control of the concerned person.

## Article 9

All concerned authorities, each within its own jurisdiction, shall implement this Resolution, which shall enter into force from the date of its publication in the *Official Gazette*.