



## COMMUNIQUE

### **Mauritania becomes 23rd signatory to the two new biodiversity treaties**

*Montreal, 20 May 2011* – Mauritania has signed the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization and the Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, making it the 23<sup>rd</sup> signatory to both treaties.

Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity, said, "These signatures represent the continued momentum on our journey towards early entry into force of the two Protocols before COP 11 and COP-MOP 6 in India."

By supporting the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing will create incentives to conserve biodiversity, sustainably use its components, and further enhance the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development and human well-being.

The Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol aims to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by providing international rules and procedures for liability and redress in the event of damage resulting from living modified organisms.

The Nagoya Protocol will enter into force 90 days after the ratification by 50 Parties to the Convention, and the Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol will do so when 40 participants to the Biosafety Protocol ratify it.

The United Nations Office of Legal Affairs will organize a signing ceremony at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in September 2011, in conjunction with the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly. At this time, both protocols are expected to have an impressive number of signatories.

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