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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SERVING AS THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE NAGOYA
PROTOCOL ON ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES
AND THE FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF
BENEFITS ARISING FROM THEIR UTILIZATION

Third meeting

Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 17-29 November 2018

COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to previous practice, the present document provides an overview of activities undertaken by the Executive Secretary since the second meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to develop and enhance cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives. It highlights some of the key collaborative arrangements and initiatives but is not an exhaustive account of the cooperative actions. More information on cooperative activities undertaken in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) may be found in documents CBD/SBI/2/10 and CBD/SBI/2/INF/12.

2. Section II addresses cooperative activities undertaken with other international organizations working on issues related to access and benefit-sharing. Section III summarizes cooperation with other organizations to support ratification and implementation as well as awareness-raising and capacity-building for the Nagoya Protocol. Section IV contains an overview of cooperative activities with different stakeholder organizations carried out with a view to raising awareness of the Protocol and support its implementation.

II. COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING ISSUES RELATED TO ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING

3. Issues related to access and benefit-sharing (ABS) are addressed in a number of other international forums besides the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention collaborates with intergovernmental organizations working in this area with a view to following developments in other international forums and providing information on developments related to the Nagoya Protocol, as described below. Many of these organizations also participate in processes under the Nagoya Protocol.

A. International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

4. The Secretariat of the Convention has a long-standing relationship with the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). The two secretariats renewed their Memorandum of Cooperation on 9 July 2018, which identifies areas for joint collaboration.

5. In line with the priority activities identified in the Short-term Action Plan (2017-2020) to Enhance and Support Capacity-Building for the Implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, the Executive Secretary was requested to continue contributing to capacity-building for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in a mutually supportive manner with the International Treaty, including through workshops and the development of materials.¹

6. Accordingly, the focus of cooperative activities in the 2017-2018 intersessional period has been on projects for mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol. These projects are described in paragraph 41 below. It may be noted here that, at its second meeting, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol adopted decision [NP-2/1](#), in which it, inter alia, invited Parties and other Governments to implement the International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol in a mutually supportive manner, as appropriate. The Conference of Parties to the Convention adopted a decision along similar lines.²

7. The Secretariat of the Convention is in regular communication with the Secretariat of the International Treaty and is actively involved in aspects of the International Treaty related to the Nagoya Protocol. In 2017-2018 inter-sessional period, this included participation in a number of ongoing processes under the Treaty, such as the seventh and eighth meetings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing as well as the second and third meetings of Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

8. The Secretariat of the Convention also took part in the seventh session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty, which was held in Kigali from 27 October to 3 November 2017. A statement was delivered on behalf of the Executive Secretary, and the Secretariat submitted a report on cooperation with the International Treaty.³ The Governing Body adopted a number of resolutions of relevance to the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol, in particular resolution 9/2017 on “cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity”.⁴ The Secretariat also participated in the special event on genomics information that was convened prior to the opening of the meeting of the Governing Body.

9. The Secretariat of the International Treaty also participated in relevant intersessional activities under the Nagoya Protocol, including meetings of the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-Building and the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources. Further to the priorities for future implementation and administration of the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House as identified by the Informal Advisory Committee on the ABS Clearing-House, the two secretariats also exchanged information in the context of the development of their respective information systems.

10. The two Secretariats have also collaborated on the development of indicators and the provision of data as part of the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This work focused on indicator 15.6.1 which will assess progress towards Target 15.6 (to “promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed”.)

B. Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

11. The secretariats of the Convention and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) have a joint work plan for 2011–2020, focusing on the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. ABS is one of the agreed joint areas of work.

¹ See decisions XIII/23 and NP-2/8.

² Decision XIII/3, para. 41.

³ Document IT/GB-7/17/Inf.13, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bs772e.pdf>.

⁴ Document IT/GB-7/17/Res9, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mv088e.pdf>.

12. In this context, the Secretariat of the Convention has participated in a number of meetings and processes of the Commission. The Secretariat of the Convention is currently represented as an observer to the meetings of the Commission's Team of Technical and Legal Experts on Access and Benefit-sharing. The Team of Technical and Legal Experts developed "Elements to facilitate domestic implementation of access and benefit-sharing for different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture" (ABS Elements), which were welcomed by the Commission and the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization. At its thirteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention adopted decision XIII/1 in which it, inter alia, invited Parties and other Governments to take note of and apply, as appropriate, the voluntary guidelines contained in the ABS Elements.

13. At its sixteenth regular session, held from 30 January to 3 February 2017, the Commission agreed to produce non-prescriptive explanatory notes describing, within the context of the ABS Elements, the distinctive features and specific practices of different subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture, to complement the ABS Elements.⁵ The Commission also requested its Secretariat to convene, in collaboration with the secretariats of the Convention as well as the International Treaty, an international workshop to assist countries to identify and raise awareness of distinctive features and specific practices of subsectors of genetic resources for food and agriculture in the context of the ABS Elements. The "International Workshop on Access and Benefit-Sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture" was convened from 10 to 12 January 2018, and the Secretariat of the Convention provided opening remarks and a presentation on the Nagoya Protocol and also contributed to a publication of the workshop proceedings.⁶

14. The Secretariat also submitted a report⁷ to the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture at its the sixteenth session of and the Executive Secretary made an opening statement.

15. The Commission is currently preparing a report of *The State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture* and the Secretariat of the Convention has provided inputs as part of the review process.

16. The Secretariat of Commission has also participated in meetings related to the Nagoya Protocol, in particular the third meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-Building and the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources.

C. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

17. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity continued to follow developments on ABS as part of the discussions on marine biodiversity taking place at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Secretariat participated in the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee, convened from 10 to 21 July 2017, and delivered a statement on behalf of the Executive Secretary, focusing on recent developments on genetic resources under the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol.

18. Following the fourth session, the Preparatory Committee submitted its report to the General Assembly, which adopted resolution 72/249 in December 2017. In the resolution, the General Assembly decided to convene an intergovernmental conference on an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. The negotiations are to address the topics in the package agreed to in 2011, namely the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular, together and as a whole, marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits, measures such as area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, environmental impact assessments and capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology. The first session of the Intergovernmental Conference was held from 4 to 17 September 2018.

⁵ Document CGRFA-16/17/Report/Rev.1, paragraph 25(iii), <http://www.fao.org/3/a-ms565e.pdf>.

⁶ See "Proceedings of the International Workshop on Access and Benefit-sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture", <http://www.fao.org/3/CA0099EN/ca0099en.pdf>.

⁷ See "Report from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity", CGRFA-16/17/Inf.25, <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mr808e.pdf>.

The Secretariat participated in the meeting and shared information on relevant activities under the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol.

19. The Secretariat also regularly exchanges information concerning the Nagoya Protocol and access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing with the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

D. World Health Organization

20. Decision [NP-2/5](#) on cooperation with other international organizations, conventions and initiatives requested specific cooperative activities with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the result has been a significant expansion in the work between the CBD Secretariat and WHO on ABS-related matters.

21. Following the concurrent meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocols in December 2016, the Executive Secretary of the Convention sent a letter to the Director-General of WHO summarizing the key outcomes of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol that were of relevance to WHO.⁸ The secretariats of the Convention and WHO also met in March 2017 to exchange information and discuss coordination, and have continued to exchange information since then.

22. In decision NP-2/5, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol requested the Executive Secretary to liaise with WHO on the outcomes of its study on “Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and pathogen sharing: public health implications” and to transmit information on the study to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its third meeting for its consideration (para. 1). The objective of the study, which was requested by the WHO Executive Board, is to analyse how implementation of the Nagoya Protocol might affect the sharing of pathogens and the potential public health implications. A summary of the study⁹ was considered by the WHO Executive Board at its 140th session, in January 2017, which requested the WHO Director-General to continue consultations with the CBD Secretariat and other relevant organizations, as appropriate, in the context of existing international commitments on access to pathogens and fair and equitable sharing of benefits, in the interest of public health, and to report thereon to the Seventieth World Health Assembly.¹⁰ In turn, the Seventieth World Health Assembly (held in May 2017) also requested the WHO Director-General to continue consultations with the CBD Secretariat and other relevant international organizations, as appropriate.¹¹ For more information on the study, see CBD/NP/MOP/3/INF/3.

23. The Secretariat of the Convention participated in the Seventieth World Health Assembly, which included agenda item 12.5 on “review of the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework”. A representative of the Secretariat made a statement under this agenda item and the meeting considered the report of the PIP Framework Review Group¹² and the report of the WHO Secretariat on collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention and other relevant organizations.¹³ The World Health Assembly adopted decision WHA70(10),¹⁴ in which, among other things, it recognized the ongoing consultations and collaboration between WHO and the CBD Secretariat and requested the WHO Director-General to continue these consultations.

24. Decision WHA70(10) also requested the Director-General to conduct an analysis of the issues raised in the recommendations by the PIP Framework Review Group concerning seasonal influenza and

⁸ Letter to Director General of WHO, <http://www.who.int/un-collaboration/partners/letter.pdf?ua=1>.

⁹ WHO Secretariat, “Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and pathogen sharing: public health implications”, http://www.who.int/un-collaboration/partners/Nagoya_Full_Study_English.pdf?ua=1.

¹⁰ See decision EB140(5) in EB140/2017/REC/1, http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/EB140-REC1/B140_REC1-en.pdf#page=1

¹¹ See decision WHA70(10), [http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA70/A70\(10\)-en.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA70/A70(10)-en.pdf?ua=1).

¹² Document A70/17, http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA70/A70_17-en.pdf.

¹³ Document A70/57, <http://www.who.int/un-collaboration/partners/A7057en.pdf?ua=1>.

¹⁴ Document WHA70(10), [http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA70/A70\(10\)-en.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA70/A70(10)-en.pdf?ua=1).

genetic sequence data. The final text of the analysis is now to be submitted to the Seventy-second World Health Assembly (May 2019) through the Executive Board at its 144th session (January 2019).¹⁵ The Secretariat of the Convention has been following the process being undertaken by WHO to conduct the analysis, including participating in the consultation held in November 2017.

25. WHO has also been following the discussions on digital sequence information on genetic resources in the context of the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol, including by participating in the meeting of the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources.

26. As requested in decision NP-2/5, paragraph 2, a note by the Executive Secretary with relevant information provided by Parties in their national reports on national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, including its Article 8(b), was shared with WHO. This document is issued as information document CBD/NP/MOP/3/INF/4.

27. In addition to these processes, the secretariats of the Convention and WHO, in consultation with FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health, also collaborated on the development of a Questions and Answers document: *Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in the Context of Human and Animal Health, and Food Safety: Access to Pathogens and Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits*.¹⁶ Furthermore, a workshop on Facilitating Access and Benefit-sharing for Pathogens to Support Public Health was organized by WHO in Switzerland from 11 to 12 June 2018 bringing together participants from the health and environment sectors. The Secretariat of the Convention participated in the workshop and gave presentations providing an overview of the Nagoya Protocol, its links to public health and relevant information provided in the interim national reports.

E. World Intellectual Property Organization

28. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity regularly exchanges information with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). In the context of the Nagoya Protocol, the Secretariat is following the ongoing process of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, which currently has a mandate to undertake text-based negotiations with the objective of reaching agreement on the text(s) of an international legal instrument(s) which will ensure the effective protection of traditional knowledge, traditional cultural expressions and genetic resources.

29. The Secretariat participated in meetings and related activities of WIPO in order to exchange information. For example, a side-event on the recent publications from WIPO was carried out at the tenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, held in December 2017.

III. COOPERATION TO SUPPORT RATIFICATION, RAISE AWARENESS AND BUILD CAPACITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION

30. The Secretariat of the Convention also works with a number of partners to support ratification of the Nagoya Protocol, to raise awareness of the Protocol and to build capacity for its implementation.¹⁷ In this regard, one of the specific tasks of the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-Building for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol is to provide advice regarding facilitation of coordination, synergy, coherence and complementarity among capacity-building and development activities. Accordingly, a number of different organizations participated in the meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee during the intersessional period.

31. Some specific cooperative activities are outlined below. Additional information on capacity-building activities carried out by partners to support implementation of the Protocol may be found in document CBD/NP/MOP/3/4.

¹⁵ See decision WHA71(11), [http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA71/A71\(11\)-en.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA71/A71(11)-en.pdf?ua=1).

¹⁶ http://www.who.int/influenza/pip/QA_NP_Public_Health.pdf?ua=1.

¹⁷ For more information on capacity-building activities, see CBD/NP/MOP/3/4 and CBD/NP/MOP/3/INF/2.

A. United Nations Development Programme

32. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is undertaking a number of projects to support the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol at the global, regional and national levels. The Secretariat of the Convention and UNDP regularly exchange information on these projects. The Secretariat participated in several workshops organized within the framework of the global GEF-UNDP project “Strengthening human resources, legal frameworks, and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol”. Examples are a regional training on the monitoring of genetic resources and traditional knowledge at the international level, which was held in Panama in June 2018, and a regional conference for Africa “The road to COP-14: Access and Benefit Sharing for Sustainable Development”, held in Rwanda in August 2018. UNDP also participated in the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-Building to support the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

33. UNDP also cooperated in regional workshops organized by the Secretariat of the Convention in collaboration with the International Development Law Organization to support the establishment of national measures to implement the Nagoya Protocol.¹⁸

B. United Nations Environment Programme

34. The Secretariat collaborated closely with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the GEF-funded project entitled “Support to Preparation of the Interim National Report on the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol” through which eligible Parties received funds and developed an interim national report on the measures taken to implement the Nagoya Protocol. The Secretariat also provided comments to UNEP on a guidebook documenting the challenges and lessons learned on the ratification process within the global GEF-UNEP project “Global Support for the Ratification or Accession to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit- Sharing”. UNEP participated in the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-Building to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

35. UNEP is also undertaking a number of projects to support the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol at the global, regional and national levels and the Secretariat of the Convention collaborates on these projects as needed.

C. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

36. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity continued to cooperate with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on issues related to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol during the inter-sessional period. In particular, the Secretariat is collaborating with UNCTAD, the Union for Ethical Biobusiness and the ABS Capacity-Development Initiative in organizing a session on access and benefit-sharing and biobusiness as part of the Business and Biodiversity Forum to be held in Egypt on 14 and 15 November 2018.

D. Regional and subregional bodies and institutions

37. The Secretariat is also collaborating with various regional and subregional bodies and institutions to facilitate the ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. In the intersessional period, this has included activities and exchange of information with the African Union Commission, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Centre for Biodiversity, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC); and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). A representative of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity participated in the meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-Building to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

E. The ABS Capacity Development Initiative

38. The Secretariat of the Convention continues to collaborate with the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, a multi-donor initiative that aims to support Governments and relevant stakeholders in the ACP

¹⁸ Further information on the SCBD-IDLO training course on “Establishing Measures to implement the Nagoya Protocol” is available in CBD/NP/MOP/3/4, section II, A.

countries (African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States) in developing and implementing national ABS frameworks, in particular to ratify and implement the Nagoya Protocol. The Initiative has been a key partner since its launch at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in March 2006. The Secretariat is a member of the Initiative's steering committee and participates in the meetings of the Initiative's General Assembly. The Secretariat of the Convention and the Initiative regularly exchange information on areas of collaboration. The ABS Initiative participated in the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-Building to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

39. In the inter-sessional period, the Secretariat has participated in and contributed to workshops and events organized by the Initiative. Examples include delivering presentations during the tenth pan-African ABS Workshop held in Senegal, from 6 to 10 March 2017; the ABS Round Table held in Ottawa, Canada on 14 September 2017 ; the Third ABS Dialogue on Key Challenges and Practical Ways Forward for the full implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and its contribution to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, jointly organized with the Government of Mexico, in Mexico, on 24 and 25 May 2018. The ABS Initiative was also a partner in the organisation of the SCBD-IDLO regional workshop for French speaking African countries, held in Dakar, from 17 to 21 September 2018.¹⁹

40. Finally, the Secretariat of the Convention and the Initiative jointly developed a short animated video which explains the system for monitoring the utilization of genetic resources through the ABS Clearing-House.²⁰

F. Bioversity International and other CGIAR Centers

41. The Secretariat of the Convention, the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and Bioversity International continued to cooperate in the intersessional period on activities on the mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty. In particular, the partners, in cooperation with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, organized a workshop for national focal points of the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty from nine South and Southeast Asian countries convened at the premises of the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines, from 27 to 30 March 2017. Furthermore, the partners, in cooperation with the International Potato Centre, jointly organized a regional tandem workshop for national focal points in Latin America and the Caribbean on the mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty, held in Peru from 25 to 28 September 2018. As part of the cooperation, the partners also developed capacity-building material (fact sheets) addressing scenarios that may arise at the interface of the two instruments and how national focal points can respond.²¹

42. From April 2015 to March 2018, Bioversity was also leading a Darwin Initiative-funded project on mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty. The project worked with Benin and Madagascar to develop mechanisms to implement the two agreements, including community protocols and national-level policies and laws. The Secretariat of the Convention participated in the steering committee for the project.

43. The CBD Secretariat also participated in meetings of the intellectual property managers and gene bank managers of the CGIAR Centers as well as a capacity-building workshop on genetic resource policies for CGIAR francophone scientists and shared information on the Nagoya Protocol and the process on digital sequence information. The CBD Secretariat also provided input to different tools developed by Bioversity including "Guidelines on the Nagoya Protocol for CGIAR Research Centers"²² and the

¹⁹ Further information on the SCBD-IDLO training course on "Establishing Measures to implement the Nagoya Protocol" is available in document CBD/NP/MOP/3/4, section II, A.

²⁰ <https://www.cbd.int/abs/resources/videos.shtml>.

²¹ The factsheets are currently available in [English](#) and [French](#) and additional languages are under development.

²² <https://cgspace.cgiar.org/bitstream/handle/10568/96240/Guidelines-for-CGIAR-Research-Centers-to-operate-in-compliance-with-the-Nagoya-Protocol.pdf>

“Decision-making tool for national implementation of the Plant Treaty’s multilateral system of access and benefit-sharing”.²³

44. Bioversity also participated in the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-Building to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol while an expert nominated by the CGIAR Centres participated in the meeting of the Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources.

G. International Development Law Organization

45. In the intersessional period 2017-2018, the Secretariat renewed its cooperation agreement with IDLO for the joint capacity-building programme to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.²⁴ With financial support from the Japan Biodiversity Fund and the European Union, the programme is committed to advance the capacity of national lawyers and policymakers to support country-led processes for the development or revision of national ABS regulatory frameworks. As part of the programme, six training courses on “Establishing Measures to Implement the Nagoya Protocol” were hosted in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, as well as the Pacific region.²⁵ The blended learning combines e-learning modules, interactive face-to-face training workshops and a “Global Network on ABS Law” for online peer-to-peer sharing. This approach proved successful in the previous project phase, 2015-2016, and was adapted to the needs, priorities and experiences of the new participants.

46. The e-learning modules are available on the Secretariat’s e-learning platform for use by Governments and relevant organizations involved in carrying out capacity-building activities with a view to supporting the development of national legal frameworks for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

47. IDLO also participated in the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-Building to support the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

H. International Union for Conservation of Nature

48. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is involved in the implementation of a number of capacity-building projects related to the Nagoya Protocol and participated in the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-Building to support the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention has collaborated with IUCN on the project “Advancing the Nagoya Protocol in Countries of the Caribbean Region”. The Secretariat is a member of the steering committee for this project and has taken part in a number of activities, including a regional workshop in Saint Kitts and Nevis from 18 to 22 June 2017 as well as a workshop in Grenada from 27 to 29 November 2017, during which a training on the ABS Clearing-House was delivered. The Secretariat also provided comments on products developed under this project.

I. Cooperation with other organizations

49. The Secretariat of the Convention also works with a number of other organizations, including stakeholder groups, in order to raise awareness and provide information about the Nagoya Protocol, including the ABS Clearing-House. Some aspects of this work are summarized below.

50. Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) is leading a Darwin Initiative-funded project on “promoting the use of plant resources in research and development”. The project is working in Ethiopia with a focus on building the capacity of plant collection holders to act as trusted intermediaries between the providers and users of plant genetic resources and developing widely applicable recommendations for simplified measures to facilitate research on plant genetic resources. The Secretariat of the Convention participates in the steering committee for the project.

²³ <https://www.biodiversityinternational.org/e-library/publications/detail/decision-making-tool-for-national-implementation-of-the-plant-treatys-multilateral-system-of-access/>

²⁴ As indicated above, more detail on capacity-building activities may be found in CBD/NP/MOP/3/4.

²⁵ For more information, see CBD/NP/MOP/3/4., section II, A.

51. The Secretariat of the Convention participated in the “Vilm Dialogue – Informing about Domestic Measures for Access to Genetic Resources”, organized by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation on the Isle of Vilm, Germany, from 27 to 30 August 2017. The purpose of the conference was to identify and present best-practices on available, clear and transparent access measures in place. The Secretariat provided a presentation during the conference. A second dialogue, with similar objectives was held in Vilm from 10 to 14 September 2018. The Secretariat provided an overview on progress in implementation based on the analysis carried out for the first assessment and review of the Protocol.

52. The Secretariat of the Convention and the Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT) regularly exchange information on relevant activities. In the intersessional period, the Secretariat participated in the 2018 “Beauty of Sourcing with Respect” Conferences organized by UEBT and convened on 19 and 20 June 2018 in France, where the Secretariat provided a presentation on the outcomes and significance of the Nagoya Protocol since its entry into force.

53. The Secretariat of the Convention and the World Federation for Culture Collections and its member organizations continued to exchange information on the ABS Clearing-House and the Global Catalogue of Microorganisms. The Executive Secretary provided a video statement to the 14th International Conference of Culture Collections in July 2017.

54. The Secretariat of the Convention also participated remotely through video presentations in the Fall School on ABS (Ecole d’automne APA) on “Implications related to Nagoya Protocol implementation: new practices for research and partnerships” within the framework of a project entitled “Sud Expert Plantes Développement Durable” (SEP2D) in Paris from 11 to 13 October 2017.²⁶

55. The Secretariat also made presentations during the annual meetings of the Global Genome Biodiversity Network and the Sustainable Agriculture Committee of the International Seed Federation.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

56. Cooperation with a wide range of organizations is important in the light of the cross-cutting nature of the Protocol. In particular, as described above, during the intersessional period (2017-2018), work on the public health aspects of the Nagoya Protocol has grown significantly and the new work on digital sequence information on genetic resources has prompted a great deal of interest and requests for information.

²⁶ Further information on SEP2D is available at: <http://www.sep2d.org/>