



PRESS RELEASE

Governments meet to finalize a legal instrument on genetic resources for development

Montreal, 9 July 2010 – Governments meet in Montreal, starting this weekend, to settle the details of a new global legal agreement governing the terms for the provision and use of the genetic resources of the planet. The results of these negotiations, to be taken to the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit in October this year, will contribute to unlocking the huge scientific and economic potential of the biodiversity of our planet, with a significant impact on human well-being.

In 2002, at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, world leaders agreed on the need for an international regime on access and benefit-sharing (ABS). The 4,000 participants attending the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in March 2006, agreed to finalize negotiations as soon as possible and no later than 2010.

“The adoption of the Aichi Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing will make a major contribution to achieving not only the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, but also the Millennium Development Goals, as well as to promoting sustainable development. It will also be a major contribution to achieving and celebrating the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity,” said Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The two Co-Chairs of the Working Group, Timothy Hodges of Canada and Fernando Casas of Colombia, expressed confidence in the negotiators and in the final results of the Montreal negotiations.

“This Working Group has come a long way and finalization of the Protocol is at last within its grasp. Now is the time for the Parties to demonstrate to one another, with the eyes of the world community upon them, that they support a fair deal and one that will benefit the entire planet,” said the two Co-Chairs. “This negotiation is about pursuing opportunities and working towards a new win-win situation. Who could possibly be against such a goal?”

With the generous financial support from the Government of Japan, some 600 delegates from governments, civil society and indigenous and local communities will meet from 10 to 16 July to come to agreement on the final version of the text.

Access and benefit-sharing refers to the way genetic resources—whether plant, animal or microorganism—are accessed in countries of origin, and how the benefits that result from their use by various research institutes, universities or private companies are shared with the people or countries that provide them. Ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources is one of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The final result is a draft agreement that will be submitted for adoption at the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit, otherwise known as the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, in October 2010.

Over 10,000 participants are expected to attend the Biodiversity Summit. The high-level segment of this historic meeting will be held on 27-29 October 2010 and will be preceded by a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly exclusively devoted to biodiversity to be held in New York in



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220, Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



Life in harmony, into the future
いのちの共生を、未来へ
COP 10 / MOP 5

September 2010 in conjunction with the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly and with the participation of Heads of State and Government.

The negotiations on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing aim at the effective implementation of the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the Convention, as well as Article 8(j) of the Convention related to the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.

Media interested in accreditation to this event are encouraged to apply online at: www.cbd.int/media/accreditation/

The meeting will be held at the conference centre of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), 999 University Avenue, Montreal.

Note to Editors:

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits from utilization of genetic resources. With 193 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries committed to preserving life on Earth. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety a supplementary treaty to the Convention seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by [living modified organisms](#) resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 156 countries and the European Union are party to the Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol is located in Montreal. www.cbd.int/

Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their utilization: The Convention on Biological Diversity recognizes the sovereign rights of States over their natural resources in areas within their jurisdiction. Parties to the Convention therefore have the authority to determine access to genetic resources in areas within their jurisdiction. Parties also have the obligation to take appropriate measures with the aim of sharing the benefits derived from their use. Genetic resources, whether from plants, animals or micro-organisms, may be used for different purposes. Users of genetic resources can include research institutes, universities and private companies operating in various sectors such as pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, agriculture, horticulture and biotechnology. Benefits derived from genetic resources may include the result of research and development carried out on genetic resources, the transfer of technologies which make use of those resources, participation in biotechnological research activities, or monetary benefits arising from the commercialization of products based on genetic resources. www.cbd.int/abs The documents under discussion at the ninth meeting of the working Group, are available at: www.cbd.int/wgabs9/

2010 International Year of Biodiversity: The United Nations declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) to raise awareness about the crucial importance of biodiversity, to communicate the human costs of biodiversity loss, and to engage people, particularly youth, throughout the world in the fight to protect all life on Earth. Initiatives will be organized throughout the year to disseminate information, promote the protection of biodiversity and encourage countries, organizations, and individuals to take direct action to reduce biodiversity loss. The focal point for the year is the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/

For more information contact David Ainsworth +1 514 287 7025 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int or Johan Hedlund +1 514 287 6670 or johan.hedlund@cbd.int
