

## COMMUNIQUÉ

### Somalia Becomes the 160th Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

*Montreal, 6 August 2010* – Somalia deposited its instrument of accession to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on 26 July 2010 and will become the 160th Party to Protocol on 24 October 2010. The accession comes at a time when the world community is celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity and during the tenth anniversary year of the adoption of the Protocol.

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is a legally binding international agreement governing the transboundary movement of living modified organisms, (LMOs), also commonly known as genetically modified organisms (GMOs), resulting from modern biotechnology. Its objective is to ensure safety in the transfer, handling and use of LMOs.

Welcoming the news, Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity said, “Somalia’s accession to the Biosafety Protocol is a clear testimony of the Government’s commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. I wish to pay tribute to the Government and the people of Somalia for demonstrating such determination despite the many challenges currently facing the country. I urge other countries that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Protocol as soon as possible in order to achieve universal ratification of the Protocol by the time of the Rio+20 Earth Summit that will be held in May 2012 in Rio de Janeiro.”

Dr. Abdullahi Mohamed Issa, the Minister of Environment of Somalia said, “This is a historic occasion not only for Somalia but for the whole world. It is a demonstration of my Government’s wish to engage in the process of multilateral cooperation on the environment and for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as means towards promoting not only socio-economic development, but also international peace and security. We are pleased to join hands with other nations to work towards achieving this noble goal.”

Somalia’s accession also comes at a time when Parties to the Protocol are preparing for their fifth meeting, which will take place from 11 to 15 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan. One of the expected outcomes of the meeting is the adoption of a supplementary protocol that will establish international rules and procedures for liability and redress for damage resulting from transboundary movements of living modified organisms. The meeting is also expected to adopt a strategic plan for the Protocol for the period 2011-2020 aimed at ensuring the Protocol’s full implementation.

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