



COMMUNIQUÉ

Sudan becomes the 11th country to sign the Nagoya protocol on access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources

Montreal, 28 April 2011 – on 21 April 2011, Sudan became the latest signatory to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization.

The signature follows the signing of the Protocol by Colombia, Yemen, Algeria, Brazil, Mexico and Rwanda at the beginning of February. Ecuador, the Central African Republic, the Seychelles and Mali followed with signatures during the month of April.

The Nagoya Protocol was agreed by the 193 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity with the full engagement of their partners at the Aichi-Nagoya Biodiversity Summit in October 2010. It was opened for signature in New York on 2 February 2011.

On the occasion of the opening for signature of the Nagoya Protocol, on 2 February this year, the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon called on all Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to take the steps to expedite the early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol. He emphasized that the agreement links conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity with development.

Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity said: “every signature leads us closer to implementation of this unique legal instrument.”

“With entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol, the world will have a tool that mobilizes the sustainable use of biodiversity in the service of sustainable development and poverty alleviation.” He said.

Financial support for the entry into force and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol has come from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in the form of a trust fund and a mid-sized project of two million United States dollars. The project secretariat is now fully operational.

A series of briefings for legislators and parliamentarians are being held around the world with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme, Globe International and the International Parliamentary Union.

The Nagoya Protocol will enter into force 90 days after the ratification by 50 Parties to the Convention. The United Nations Office of Legal Affairs will organize another signing ceremony at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 11 May 2011, in conjunction with the ministerial segment of the nineteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. At this ceremony, an impressive number of countries are expected to sign.
