



## COMMUNIQUÉ

### **Panama and Peru sign the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources**

*Montreal, 5 May 2011* – Panama and Peru have become the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> countries to sign the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization.

Six countries from Latin America and the Caribbean have now signed the Protocol.

The signature follows the signing of the Protocol by Colombia, Yemen, Algeria, Brazil, Mexico, Rwanda, Ecuador, the Central African Republic, the Seychelles, Mali and Sudan.

The Nagoya Protocol was agreed by the 193 Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 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 and will remain open until 1 February 2012.

Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary said: “The speed of signature of the Nagoya Protocol is unprecedented, and demonstrates the commitment of the Parties to ensure the early entry into force of this most important legal instrument at the service of the sustainable development agenda.”

Acting as the depository of this unique legal instrument, the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, called on the 193 Parties to the CBD to take the steps to expedite the early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol. He stressed that the Nagoya Protocol links conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity with development.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), under the leadership of its CEO and Chairperson, Ms. Monique Barbut, has adopted a project aimed at promoting the early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol. Under this project, adopted under expedited procedure, a series of briefings with legislators worldwide, as well as capacity-building workshops, will be organized with a view of ensuring the entry into force of the Protocol as early as possible, and preferably before 10 July 2012 in order to convene the first meeting of its governing body back to back with the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) to the CBD to be held in India in October 2012. In addition, at the initiative of Japan a dedicated Trust Fund for the Nagoya Protocol has already been established.

The Nagoya Protocol will enter into force 90 days after the ratification by 50 Parties to the Convention.

The next signing ceremony of the Nagoya Protocol will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 11 May 2011, in conjunction with the Ministerial Segment of the 19<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. The ceremony,

organized by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs in partnership with the Secretariat, will be held with the participation of Mr. Joseph Deiss, President of the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly, as well as the representative of Mr. Ryu Matsumoto, Japan's Minister of the Environment and COP 10 President. At this ceremony an impressive number of countries are expected to sign, with 10 Parties having already informed the Secretariat of their intention to sign the Nagoya Protocol.

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