



COMMUNIQUÉ

Ghana becomes 24th country to sign international treaty on genetic resources

Montreal, 25 May 2011 – Ghana, on Friday 20 May 2011, became the 24th country to sign the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.

By supporting the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing will create incentives to conserve biodiversity, sustainably use its components, and further enhance the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development and human well-being.

Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity, said: “This 24th signature by Ghana, on the eve of the International Day for Biological Diversity, was another step towards the realisation of sustainable development. With this, we are closer to the early entry into force of the Protocol.”

The Nagoya Protocol will enter into force 90 days after the ratification by 50 Parties to the Convention, and the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety will do so when 40 participants to the Biosafety Protocol ratify it.

The United Nations Office of Legal Affairs will organize a signing ceremony at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in September 2011, in conjunction with the 66th session of the United Nations General Assembly. At this time, an impressive number of signatories are expected.
