



## COMMUNIQUÉ

### East African Legislative Assembly prepares resolution on Nagoya Protocol

*Montreal, 8 June 2011* – Parliamentarians serving in the East African Legislative Assembly are ready to champion the cause of raising awareness amongst legislators to the national parliaments of the five countries that comprise the East African Community (EAC).

Legislators were briefed by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the status and relevance of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization.

As a commitment to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, the legislators agreed to heighten and raise awareness so as to increase appreciation of the Protocol by national parliaments through inter-parliamentary forums and meetings with individual committees of the national parliaments of EAC States charged with the mandate on environment and biodiversity.

“The Global Environment Facility (GEF) congratulates the parliamentarians of the Eastern African countries for actively engaging in the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol. As the financial mechanism of the Protocol, the GEF is further committed to support the process through the newly established Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund and capacity-building projects on ABS,” said Mrs. Monique Barbut, CEO and Chairperson, Global Environment Facility.

Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, said: “Engaging parliamentarians in the implementation of the Nagoya Biodiversity Compact is key to its success. This is the spirit of the Nagoya Declaration on Parliamentarians and Biodiversity. This is also the spirit and the letter of this initiative of East African Legislative Assembly.”

Legislators also proposed to move a resolution in the East African Legislative Assembly calling for the hastened signing and ratification of the Nagoya Protocol by EAC partner States.

Accordingly, they will put in place a regional legislative framework to guide access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization, including a regulatory framework on the management of transboundary ecosystems.

They will also call for the recognition of the EAC in international forums as a valuable partner in environmental matters, including biodiversity, amongst others.

The East African Community is the regional intergovernmental organization of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania and is headquartered in Arusha.

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