



PRESS RELEASE

Spain becomes 40th signatory of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing and the 25th signatory of the Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Montreal, 25 July 2011 –On 21 July 2011, Spain became the 40th Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity to sign the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the 25th Party to sign the Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, said: “Spain’s signature of the two treaties is yet another testament to the growing commitment and support for the global efforts to protect life on Earth and secure a sustainable future for our children. I call on all countries who have not yet signed the two protocols to do so.”

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.

The Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol aims to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by providing international rules and procedures for liability and redress in the event of damage resulting from living modified organisms.

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 will do so when 40 Parties 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 on 20 September 2011, in conjunction with the sixty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly. At this time, both Protocols are expected to have an impressive number of signatories.

The list of signatories to the Nagoya Protocol is available on the Convention’s website at: www.cbd.int/abs/nagoya-protocol/signatories/; and the list of signatories to the Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol is available at: <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/parties/#tab=1>

Notes to editors

Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization

The Nagoya Protocol was adopted on 29 October 2010 at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan. The Nagoya Protocol is a landmark agreement in the international governance of biodiversity and is relevant for a variety of commercial and non-commercial sectors involved in the use and exchange of genetic resources. The Nagoya Protocol is based on the fundamental principles of access and benefit-sharing enshrined in the CBD. These principles are based on potential users of genetic resources obtaining the prior informed consent (PIC) of the country in which the genetic resource is located before accessing the resource, and negotiating and agreeing on the terms and conditions of access and use of this resource through the establishment of mutually agreed terms (MAT). This agreement includes the sharing of benefits arising from the use of the resource with the provider as a prerequisite for access to the genetic resource and its use. Conversely, countries, when acting as providers of genetic resources, should provide fair and non-arbitrary rules and procedures for access to their genetic resources. For more information on the Protocol, visit www.cbd.int/abs

Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

The Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol was adopted on 15 October 2010 by the fifth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol – the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol – in Nagoya, Japan. Under the Supplementary Protocol, Parties have an obligation to provide, in new or existing domestic law, for rules and procedures that address damage resulting from LMOs, including response measures to prevent or mitigate damage or to restore biological diversity. The Supplementary Protocol is the first international treaty to provide for a definition of “damage” to biodiversity. The text of the Supplementary Protocol is available at: https://bch.cbd.int/protocol/NKL_text.shtml.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 193 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is a subsidiary agreement to the Convention. It seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 160 countries plus the European Union have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol is located in Montreal. For more information visit: www.cbd.int.

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