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PRESS RELEASE

The Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress receives 51 signatories

Montreal, 8 March 2012 – The Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety closed for signature yesterday with a total of 51 signatories. Since the beginning of this year the Supplementary Protocol received 14 more signatures from the following Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: Brazil, Chad, Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Japan, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Slovakia, Thailand, Ukraine, and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Supplementary Protocol, which was opened for signature on 7 March 2011, will enter into force when 40 Parties to the Biosafety Protocol ratify it. To date, two countries, Latvia and the Czech Republic, have ratified the Supplementary Protocol.

Speaking after the Supplementary Protocol closed for signature, the current President of the governing body of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, Mr. Michihiko Kano, Minister to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan said: “Japan welcomes the support expressed by so many countries for the Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress, one of the biggest outcomes of the Biodiversity Summit that was held in Nagoya in October 2010. Japan wishes to re-affirm its commitment to the Supplementary Protocol and looks forward to its entry into force soon.”

The new Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, said: “I congratulate the 50 countries and the European Union that have signed this important treaty and the two countries that have already ratified it. With this commitment demonstrated by Parties from all the geographic regions, I am hopeful for an early entry into force of the Supplementary Protocol.”

Parties to the Biosafety Protocol that were not able to sign the Supplementary Protocol by 6 March 2012 can become a Party to the Supplementary Protocol by depositing an instrument of accession with the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Further information on how to become a Party can be found at: http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/NKL_ratification.shtml.

Since 2011, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has organized a series of regional workshops to promote the signing and ratification of the Supplementary Protocol, with the financial support of the Government of Japan. It has also produced a video presentation on the Supplementary Protocol, which is available at http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/supplementary/NKL_workshops.shtml.

Notes to Editors

As an additional treaty to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety seeks to protect biological diversity from potential adverse effects of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. The Protocol was adopted in Montreal on 29 January 2000 and entered into force on 11 September 2003. To date, 162 countries and the European Union are Parties to the Protocol.



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The Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was adopted on 15 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, at the fifth meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in its decision BS-V/11. The decision calls upon Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to sign and subsequently ratify the Supplementary Protocol, and encourages them to implement it pending its entry into force.

The text of the Supplementary Protocol is available at: https://bch.cbd.int/protocol/NKL_text.shtml

The list of signatories to the Supplementary Protocol is available at:
<http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/parties/#tab=1>

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