



PRESS RELEASE

Nagoya Protocol meeting builds momentum towards entry into force

Montreal, 6 July 2012. With a spirit of compromise and constructive engagement, Governments concluded a week-long meeting where they advanced in the preparations for the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing.

At the second meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol (ICNP), held in New Delhi this week, some 500 delegates agreed on recommendations relating to key issues for the entry into force and implementation of the ground-breaking treaty on the use of genetic resources.

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization, agreed in 2010 at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, will enter into force 90 days after 50 Parties have ratified it. As of today, five countries have ratified and 93 have signed.

During the meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee, Parties demonstrated their commitment to early ratification of the Protocol and their ongoing efforts to expedite the required domestic procedures to that effect. It is expected that before the end of the year a number will have completed the necessary domestic steps and formally deposited their instrument of ratification with the Secretary-General

The Committee advanced recommendations on compliance, capacity-building, awareness-raising, a clearing-house, guidance to the financial mechanism, resource mobilization and a global mechanism for benefit-sharing in preparation for the first meeting of the governing body of the Protocol, which is expected to take place in 2014.

The Committee also forwarded recommendations regarding the Nagoya Protocol to the upcoming eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 11) which is scheduled to take place in Hyderabad, India from 8 to 19 October 2012. COP 11 will be asked to ensure that continued support can be provided for awareness-raising and capacity-building in support of ratification of the Protocol. The Committee also recommended to the Conference of the Parties that it should hold another meeting in order to complete its work in preparation for entry into force of the Protocol.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity said: “Parties have demonstrated that they are committed to bringing the Nagoya Protocol into force. Their discussions over the week were constructive and they advanced on the key issues that will need to be agreed by entry into force of the Protocol.”

He added that: “During the week, a number of Parties also communicated the status of ratification, and indicated that they are working with all speed to enable the legislation and policies that are needed to ensure ratification.”

In-session documents of the meeting, including recommendations for adoption, are available at: <http://www.cbd.int/icnp2/in-session/>



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Notes to Editors

Heads of State and Government at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in September 2002 first recognized the need for an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits and called for negotiations to be carried out within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention responded at its seventh meeting, in 2004, by mandating its Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing to elaborate and negotiate an international regime on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing to effectively implement Articles 15 (Access to genetic resources) and 8(j) (Traditional knowledge) of the Convention and its three objectives.

The Nagoya Protocol significantly advances the objective of the Convention on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources by providing greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources. Specific obligations to support compliance with domestic legislation or regulatory requirements of the Party providing genetic resources and contractual obligations reflected in mutually agreed terms are a significant innovation of the Nagoya Protocol. These compliance provisions as well as provisions establishing more predictable conditions for access to genetic resources will contribute to ensuring the sharing of benefits when genetic resources leave a Party providing genetic resources. Also, the Protocol's provisions on access to traditional knowledge held by indigenous and local communities when it is associated with genetic resources will strengthen the ability of these communities to benefit from the use of their knowledge, innovations and practices.

By promoting the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, and by strengthening the opportunities for fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their use, the Protocol will create incentives to conserve biodiversity, sustainably use its components, and further enhance the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development and human well-being. www.cbd.int/abs

The full text of the Nagoya Protocol is available at: www.cbd.int/abs/doc/protocol/nagoya-protocol-en.pdf. The list of signatories of the Nagoya Protocol is available on the Convention's website at: www.cbd.int/abs/nagoya-protocol/signatories/

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, 162 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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