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Press Release

At first meeting, countries adopt measures to strengthen and support implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing

Pyeongchang, 17 October 2014 – Governments have agreed to a series of actions that will further bolster the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, facilitate its effective implementation, and ensure that countries have the necessary resources to take the next steps to implement the treaty, which entered into force earlier this week.

Among the decisions adopted at the first Meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (COP MOP-1), held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea from 13 to 17 October 2014, are mechanisms to ensure compliance with the Protocol, measures to assist institutional capacities in developing countries, and a strategy to raise awareness of the international instrument.

“The Convention is finally standing on three legs with its three objectives now firmly addressed,” the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, said to the COP MOP-1, which took place under the umbrella of the 12th meeting of the Parties of the CBD (COP-12).

“Now we need to see how the provisions of the Protocol are taken up at the national level and how this facilitates access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits with those stakeholders and indigenous peoples and local communities who conserve and sustainably use those resources.”

The Protocol, which was agreed in 2010 and entered into force on 12 October with 51 ratifications, establishes clear rules for accessing, trading, sharing and monitoring the use of the world’s genetic resources that can be used for pharmaceutical, agricultural, cosmetic and other purposes. As of today, 54 Parties have ratified the Nagoya Protocol.

Hem Pande, representing the government of India, which presided over COP MOP-1, said “With the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol six days ago, followed by significant advancements made on some key issues in this historic first COP-MOP, a new era of trust building and partnership among users and providers of genetic resources has indeed begun. This I believe will also give confidence to the non-Parties to ratify the Protocol at the earliest.”

Parties at the meeting emphasized the need to ensure that countries can implement the Protocol, and to this end they adopted a strategic framework for capacity building and development. They also adopted decisions on guidance to mobilize resources and ensure that developing countries including countries with economies in transition have sufficient resources to implement the Protocol.



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220 Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



In addition, countries agreed on procedures to establish a committee to promote compliance with the Protocol and address cases of non-compliance.

Countries also called for measures to guide them through the use of the Access Benefit-Sharing Clearing House (ABS-CH) – the online platform that will enhance transparency on the use of genetic resources –and ensure all available information is registered there.

The COP MOP stressed the importance of raising awareness of the Protocol and adopted decisions to support activities to that end. It also called on the Global Environment Facility to increase funding for this objective.

The implementation of the Nagoya Protocol contributes to the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 16. Target 16 provides that the Nagoya Protocol should enter into force and be operational by 2015. With the results of COP MOP-1, this target is poised to become the first of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets to be fully implemented.

“With the cooperative efforts and the collective work of this week, the COP MOP has established a firm foundation for the operationalization of the Nagoya Protocol,” Mr. Dias said.

Notes for Editors

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization was adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2010, in Nagoya, Japan, and 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. 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. For more information: www.cbd.int/abs

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 194 Parties up to now, 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 and Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 167 countries plus the European Union have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 53 countries plus the European Union. For more information visit: www.cbd.int

For additional information: David Ainsworth +1 514 833 0196 or david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int