



PRESS RELEASE

Nagoya Protocol expected to reach milestone 100 ratifications in 2016

Montreal, 15 January 2016 – Following accession by Slovakia on 29 December 2015, the total number of ratifications to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization now stands at 70.

“Reaching 70 Parties to the Nagoya Protocol is certainly a milestone. However, we need to ensure that this momentum is maintained throughout the year in order for us to achieve our goal of reaching 100 ratifications by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (COP-MOP 2), being held in December 2016,” said Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. “For this purpose, I count on the support of CBD Parties and our partners to promote ratification and I encourage countries yet to do so, to ratify the Protocol at their earliest convenience.” In December 2015, the UN General Assembly echoed these views by inviting CBD Parties to ratify the Nagoya Protocol in resolution 70/472.

Ratifying the Protocol prior to COP-MOP 2 will enable countries to participate in decision-making at this meeting and in further advancing implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The impact of the Protocol in creating greater transparency and legal certainty for providers and users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge will increase as more countries join the Protocol and undertake to implement its obligations.

In 2016, with a view to supporting implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, the International Development Law Organization and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will hold capacity-building courses aimed at equipping national-policy-makers and legislators to develop legal frameworks on Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS). These courses will introduce participants to the core requirements of the Nagoya Protocol, key considerations for the design and implementation of ABS frameworks, and the different approaches to ABS based on country experiences and best practices.

The Nagoya Protocol is critical for the sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity. Allowing Parties to fully benefit from their genetic resources generates new opportunities and incentives to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity. The fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources is one of the three main objectives of the Convention, with the other two being the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of its components.



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



The following countries ratified the Nagoya Protocol in 2015: Cambodia, Croatia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Mauritania, Pakistan, Philippines, the Republic of the Congo and Slovakia.

Note to editors

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 196 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 the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 170 Parties 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 70 Parties. For more information visit: www.cbd.int. For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 287 7025 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int.
