



PRESS RELEASE

Mexico urges early ratification of the international treaty on access and benefit-sharing

Montreal, 11 April 2016 – Rafael Pacchiano Alamán, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico, as the incoming president of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in a joint letter with Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, CBD Executive Secretary, urged his global counterparts to ratify 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 as soon as possible.

Reiterating that the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol at COP 12 was a significant achievement for the international community, Minister Pacchiano and Dr. Dias highlighted their common goal of reaching 100 ratifications before the CBD meetings being held later this year in Cancun, Mexico. They said that by ratifying or acceding to the Nagoya Protocol, Parties will contribute to maintaining the diversity of genetic resources and their associated traditional knowledge for improving livelihoods and for the development of new products and services.

The [letter](#) highlights the contribution of access and benefit-sharing (ABS) to the global agenda on sustainable development and in particular the relevance of ABS in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in September 2015.

The Nagoya Protocol entered into force on 12 October 2014 and has now been ratified by 73 countries. Ratifying the Nagoya Protocol prior to the Second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing will also enable countries to participate in decision-making at this meeting and to further advance the global implementation of this landmark treaty.

Information on becoming a Party to the Nagoya Protocol is available at: www.cbd.int/abs/becoming-party/

Notes to Editors

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 was adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2010, in Nagoya, Japan, and entered into force on 12 October 2014. The Protocol significantly advances the objective of the Convention on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge by



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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. To date, 73 Parties have ratified the Nagoya Protocol.

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 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 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 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, 170 Parties 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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