



## PRESS RELEASE

### **The Republic of Korea ratifies 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**

- *98 countries have now ratified the Nagoya Protocol, an innovative treaty on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use*
- *The Republic of Korea hosted COP-MOP-1, the inaugural meeting of the Nagoya Protocol*
- *The entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol in 2014 was a major development under the Convention*

**22 May 2017** – On Friday, 19 May 2017, the Republic of Korea became the 98<sup>th</sup> country to ratify the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization.

The first Meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol was held from 13 to 17 October 2014 in the Republic of Korea, along with the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Nagoya Protocol is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Protocol builds on the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the Convention by establishing predictable conditions for access to genetic resources and by helping to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of these resources. Adopted in 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, it entered into force on 12 October 2014.

Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, said: “This is great news for the Republic of Korea and for the Nagoya Protocol. This ratification shows the growing commitment by the world towards achieving the third objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.”

It is expected that other ratifications are being finalized, and therefore the Protocol should reach 100 ratifications shortly.

## NOTES 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 so far, 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 98 Parties. For more information visit: [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int). For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 287 7025 or at [david.ainsworth@cbd.int](mailto:david.ainsworth@cbd.int); or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at [johan.hedlund@cbd.int](mailto:johan.hedlund@cbd.int).

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