



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Korean Consulate in Montreal to Host Conference on Biological Diversity**

**Montreal, June 10, 2022** – The Consulate General of the Republic of Korea (ROK) in Montreal and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) are jointly hosting a conference entitled “30 Years of Biodiversity: A Legacy from Rio to Future Generations” on June 16 at the Maison du développement durable in Montreal.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a landmark multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) opened for signature on the occasion of the historic UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, where representatives of 178 States (including 118 heads of state or government) gathered. Along with the CBD, two additional watershed MEAs were established: the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

The CBD’s main objectives are the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. The Convention is designed for the realization of those objectives through the guiding principles contained within it, as well as through the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing.

The CBD is deemed a second generation MEA as it takes a comprehensive and holistic approach, in contrast with the preceding generation of MEAs that took a more sectoral approach. The CBD is also considered as one of the most successful MEAs in place, as it enjoys almost full universality with 196 contracting parties.

2022 is the right moment for marking the achievements and successes of the CBD and discussing its future. Recent events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the rise of climate change-related disasters bring about strengthened awareness on the importance of biological diversity. This year is also a midpoint between the CBD’s adoption and 2050, a target year of the Long Term Vision for biological diversity. The fact that the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) is under way and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is in the formulation on the occasion of COP15 makes this year even more meaningful.

In this light, the Consulate General of the ROK in Montreal and the SCBD have the pleasure of co-hosting a conference celebrating the 30th anniversary of the CBD in Montreal, where the SCBD is based. Reflecting the significance and interest of the local community regarding the subject, political leaders at the federal, provincial, and municipal level, representatives of the SCBD and public authorities, renowned academics, and reputational activists will all participate in the event as speakers, moderators or panelists. The conference will also host a “College of Future Generations,” made up of students who will present posters on biological diversity.



The Republic of Korea, as a host country of COP12 in 2014 and one of the major donors to the SCBD's projects, has reiterated its firm commitment to the purposes and objectives of the CBD on every occasion. Co-hosting this event is in line with the ROK government's consistent position to support the SCBD.

In addition to the co-hosts, principal partners of the conference are Espace pour la vie, the Fonds de recherche du Québec, Ernst & Young, the David Suzuki Foundation, the Université du Québec à Montréal, and the Fédération des Caisses Desjardins du Québec. Additional partners include the Conseil des relations Internationales de Montréal, Jour de la Terre Canada, the Centre de la science de la biodiversité du Québec, and the Group on Earth Observations, Biodiversity Observation Network.

Registration to view the livestream of the conference [can be accessed here](#).

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**About the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** Opened for signature in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and entering into force in December 1993, the CBD 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, the CBD has near universal participation among countries. The CBD 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 peoples and local communities, youth, women, NGOs, sub-national actors and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing are supplementary agreements to the CBD. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biodiversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 173 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. Entering into force 12 October 2014, it has been ratified by 135 Parties.

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