



**STATEMENT BY**

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**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**ON THE OCCASION OF**

**THE REGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL  
ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING FOR MIDDLE EAST REGION AND DJIBOUTI,  
LIBYA, MAURITANIA,**

**Amman, Jordan, 9 - 10 April 2013**



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you all to this workshop on the Nagoya Protocol on access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Government of Jordan for hosting this workshop in the beautiful city of Amman.

As you know, the tenth Conference of the Parties to the CBD, adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 29 October 2010. The Protocol supports the further implementation of the Convention's third objective: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

The Nagoya Protocol obtained 92 signatures by the closing date for signature and as of today, 15 Parties to the Convention, including Jordan, the host of this workshop, have deposited their instruments of ratification or accession. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate these countries for sending a clear signal of their commitment to the entry into force and implementation of the Protocol. I encourage other countries to follow suit to ensure the timely entry into force of this important international instrument.

The entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol is of strategic importance as it will provide greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources, creating a framework that promotes the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge while strengthening the opportunities for fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their use. Hence, the Protocol will create new incentives to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, and further enhance the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development and human well-being.

This workshop is very timely as it specifically aims at facilitating discussions, exchange of views and experiences with a view to developing strategies and options to effectively address the needs and priorities of countries in this region in their efforts towards the ratification/accession and the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

As you are well aware, the Nagoya Protocol's success will require effective implementation by Parties at the domestic level. The Nagoya Protocol provides flexibility: the challenge is to determine the best approach to implement the Protocol in order to meet common objectives while taking into account national interests.

Allow me to take a moment to extend my wholehearted appreciation to national, regional and global partners present here for their work and valuable contributions in the organization of this workshop and in their overall support towards the entry into force and implementation of the Protocol. Your presence today and efforts further attest to your unwavering commitment to advancing the third objective and the overall implementation of the Convention. I would like to especially thank her Highness, Princess Basma Bint Ali and the staff of the Princess Alia foundation, for their support and guidance in the organization of this workshop. I would also like to thank the Royal Botanical Garden, the League of Arab States and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for their invaluable inputs and fruitful collaboration as co-organizers this workshop

Finally, I would like to express once again the Secretariat's sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for hosting this workshop. This initiative further reiterates and confirms Jordan's leadership and continued commitment towards the early entry into force and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

I wish you all very fruitful and productive deliberations for a successful workshop and as always the Secretariat stands ready to support your efforts on this issue.