



PRESS RELEASE

Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing edges closer to reaching goal of 100 ratifications by year's end

Montreal, 26 February 2016 – Ratifications by Togo and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has brought 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 to 72.

“With the actions by Togo and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, we are moving closer to 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. “I count on the support of Parties and our partners to promote ratification of the Protocol, and I encourage countries to maintain this momentum by joining this comprehensive, international agreement on access and benefit-sharing.” In December 2015 these views were echoed by the United Nations General Assembly by inviting Parties to the Convention to ratify the Nagoya Protocol in resolution 70/472.

Ratifying the Nagoya Protocol prior to COP-MOP 2 will enable countries to participate in decision-making at this meeting and to further advance the global implementation of this landmark treaty. Considering the 90-day delay for entry into force of the Protocol, countries that wish to fully participate at COP-MOP should take measures to deposit their instrument of ratification before September 2016.

The 2010 Nagoya Protocol is a key element in the global framework for sustainable development. It builds on one of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. The Protocol is also vital to creating value for traditional knowledge by requiring users to obtain permission to use it, and to share any benefits that result from its use with the communities who hold it.

The Governments of Togo and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland deposited their instruments of ratification with the Secretary General of the United Nations on 10 February and 22 February 2016 respectively. As provided for in its article 33(2), the Nagoya Protocol will enter into force in Togo on 10 May 2016. For the United Kingdom, entry into force will take place on 22 May 2016, the International Day for Biological Diversity.

With the ratification by Togo, 31 African countries have now ratified the Nagoya Protocol. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's ratification follows suit with the European Union's accession to the treaty in October 2015, and the ratification by nine other European countries. Both countries have now ratified all treaties related to the Convention on Biological Diversity.



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Further 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 by 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, 72 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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