



PRESS RELEASE

With 66 ratifications, Parties to the CBD show their commitment to the Nagoya Protocol

Montreal, 28 September 2015 – Two new ratifications this month to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization brings the total number of ratifications to the ground-breaking treaty under the Convention on Biological Diversity to 66.

Since its entry into force on 12 October 2014, the Nagoya Protocol has received 11 additional ratifications from the following countries: Cambodia, Croatia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Mauritania and the Republic of the Congo. The ratifications come from diverse regions of the world indicating broad support for this treaty.

“Following the recent ratifications by Croatia and Cuba, we expect a number of additional ratifications and accessions to the Protocol in the coming weeks as a number of countries are finalizing their national processes,” said Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. “We hope to achieve our target of reaching well over 100 Parties by the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting to the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (COP-MOP 2) in December 2016. To achieve this goal, we count on the support of Parties and our partners to promote ratification of the Protocol.”

Parties yet to ratify the Nagoya Protocol can do so at the upcoming Treaty Event 2015, being held in conjunction with the General Debate of the seventieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, from 28 September to 1 October 2015. The Treaty Event is an effective means for promoting wider participation of states in the multilateral treaty framework, and also serves as an advocacy tool to raise awareness and appreciation of international law among the general public.

Increasing the number of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol remains key in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 16 which provides that “by 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation”. The impact of the Protocol in creating greater transparency and legal certainty



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for providers and users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge will increase as more countries join the Protocol and undertake to implement its obligations.

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, 66 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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