



PRESS RELEASE

Governments establish basis for implementation of Nagoya Protocol on Genetic Resources

Montreal, 13 June 2011— The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization of the Convention on Biological Diversity came to a close in Montreal on Friday, 10 June 2011. During the meeting, Governments from 108 countries discussed the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on Genetic Resources and agreed on the way forward on information-sharing, capacity-development, awareness-raising and the development of cooperative mechanisms for compliance, with a view to ensuring that the agreement achieves its objectives.

Speaking at the closing session, Co-Chair Janet Lowe said: “This baby, born in Nagoya, is alive and growing. If it is ever to walk, it will have to take its first stumbling steps. This week shows that the baby has picked itself up and is making the effort, with your support.”

“The work of Governments this week demonstrates a commitment to the implementation of the Protocol. I congratulate Parties on the spirit of collaboration and compromise that will serve us all in the years to come. The world looks forward to the ratification of the Protocol and its early entry into force in time for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties,” said Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol (ICNP) is the interim body charged with preparing for the first meeting of the governing body of the new treaty. The Nagoya Protocol was agreed by world Governments in October 2010 at the Nagoya biodiversity summit and will enter into force 90 days after receipt of the fiftieth instrument of ratification. Twenty-four countries have signed to date and it is anticipated that the Protocol will enter into force before the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012.

Under the guidance of Co-Chairs Fernando Casas of Colombia and Janet Lowe of New Zealand, delegates concluded discussions on four main areas:

- Governments agreed to establish a pilot phase for the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-house as soon as possible, based on guidance discussed at the meeting. The Clearing-house will provide information of relevance for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, and support capacity-development activities.
- Participants acknowledged the importance of awareness-raising activities for successful implementation of the treaty. To this end, they agreed to the drafting of elements of an awareness-raising strategy based on submissions of lessons-learned and experiences from around the world.
- The meeting discussed cooperative procedures and institutional mechanisms to promote

compliance and address cases of non-compliance with the Protocol. They agreed to submit views on the elements and options available and also asked for an expert meeting to take place in advance of the next ICNP.

- Capacity-building was recognized as an important element in implementation of the Protocol, and the need to develop a strategy on the basis of domestic needs and priorities. Parties agreed to an exchange of views on this for further consideration at the next meeting.

The meeting was made possible due to the financial support of the governments of Denmark, Finland Germany and Norway.

The next meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Nagoya Protocol will take place in Hyderabad, India, in April 2012.

The final report and results of the meeting will be circulated shortly, while the in-session documents discussed during the meeting can be found at: www.cbd.int/absicnpl/insession/

Notes for 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 193 Parties, 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, 159 countries plus the European Union 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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