



PRESS RELEASE

European Union implementation of Nagoya Protocol bolstered by recent ratification of Germany

Montreal, 22 April 2016 – Germany is the latest country to ratify the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, bringing the total number of ratifications to 74. This includes 73 countries and the European Union (EU), which ratified the Protocol in May 2014.

“I congratulate the Government of Germany and look forward to more ratifications from the EU group and other developed countries and emerging economies in the coming months,” said Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). “The recent action by Germany also moves us closer to reaching our goal of 100 ratifications before the important meetings of the Convention and its Protocols to be held in Mexico later this year.” He recalled that the European Union has been very supportive of the Nagoya Protocol, both during the negotiations and now in its implementation phase. In particular, the financial support of the EU has been instrumental in making the ABS Clearing-House operational.

Out of the 28 member countries to the European Union, seven have now ratified it (Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Spain and the United Kingdom).

Barbara Hendricks, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, deposited the instrument of ratification of Germany with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in New York, on 21 April 2016. As provided for in its Article 33, the Nagoya Protocol will enter into force in Germany on 20 July 2016.

The 2010 Nagoya Protocol is a supplementary agreement to the CBD and a key element in the global framework for sustainable development. It builds on the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the CBD by establishing predictable conditions for access to genetic resources and by helping to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of these resources.

The commitment of the EU and Germany to the Nagoya Protocol represents a big step in advancing the fair and equitable sharing of benefits. The Nagoya Protocol provides a legal framework which can contribute to transparency and clarity for the various stakeholders involved in access and benefit-sharing agreements. In Germany and the European Union, these stakeholders can include research institutions, botanical gardens and collections, pharmaceutical and cosmetic companies, biotechnology companies, and the agriculture and horticulture sector.



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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 and associated traditional knowledge 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, 74 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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