

Dear Participants

of the workshop “Strengthening of human resources, legal frameworks
and institutional capacities to implement the Nagoya Protocol in the
Republic of Belarus”!

Let me welcome you on behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus and on my own behalf.

Belarus is as a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity actively involved in the implementation of this Convention and aims to address all its objectives, including the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and ensuring of biosafety, as well as access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing from their utilization.

With regard to the first two goals, the work has been persistently carried out from the first day the Convention entered into force. The third and the most complicated component to implement would require the development of an additional legal mechanism to ensure access to genetic resources that are national wealth of our country and sharing of benefits arising from their utilization under International Treaties.

The Nagoya Protocol significantly contributes to further implementation of the third objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity, ensuring greater legal certainty and enhancing transparency for providers and users of genetic resources. A significant innovation of the Nagoya Protocol is that it establishes specific obligations to support

the compliance with domestic legislation of the State that provides access to genetic resources and with contractual obligations consolidated in mutually agreed terms. The specified provisions will enable benefit-sharing.

After long negotiations and significant compromises, in 2010, in the city of Nagoya, Japan, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the countries-Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity came to a decision to adopt the protocol known as the Nagoya Protocol regulating access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization. The Republic of Belarus acceded to the Protocol by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus of May 22, 2014 No. 235 and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection was designated as the State body responsible for fulfilling of the commitments undertaken by the Republic of Belarus under the specified International Treaty.

The Republic of Belarus considers this international instrument not only as a successive step in fulfilling its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, but also as an opportunity to give an impetus to the formation of the genetic resources' market in the country and the promotion of Belarus' interests in the international arena. This also gives an opportunity to use new technologies and developments, to revitalize sharing of experience in this area.

Stimulating the use of genetic resources and strengthening the opportunities for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization, the Protocol gives rise to incentives to conserve genetic resources as a valuable source of biological diversity, to sustainably use

its components and to further enhance the contribution of biodiversity to the country's sustainable development and human well-being.

It would be advantageous for us to know about the experience of other countries in the development of national mechanisms that ensure the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol Provisions.

This workshop was organized by the Institute of Genetics and Cytology, NAS of Belarus, and the UNDP Office in the Republic of Belarus. The participation of Claudio Chiarolla, UNDP Regional Office Specialist coordinating the project work in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, in the workshop is very important for successful project start in Belarus and the implementation of activities aimed at analyzing the current legislation with regard to conservation of genetic resources and biodiversity and the development of mechanisms that ensure access of the stakeholders to genetic resources, as well as legal regulation of fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.

Participation in the workshop of specialists implementing the Global Project in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan will make it possible to design, based on a constructive dialogue, recommendations on the successful integration of the Nagoya Protocol norms into the national legislation of the Republic of Belarus.

I wish productive work and in-depth discussions to all workshop participants!