

Dear Colleagues!!!

The 25th Anniversary of the Convention on Biological Diversity is not only the jubilee celebration, but it is a chance to demonstrate that 193 countries on Earth are consistently continuing the policy of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and acceding to the International Treaties elaborated in the form of Protocols to the Convention to ensure the biosafety (the Cartagena Protocol), access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization (the Nagoya Protocol).

The Republic of Belarus is a Party to the Convention since 1993 and a Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol since 1998 and 2014. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection is the body responsible for the implementation of the afore-mentioned Protocols. The scientific coordination and the practical implementation of activities are realized by the Institutions of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus:

➤ The State Scientific Institution “Institute of Genetics and Cytology”, NAS of Belarus, pursuant to the Resolutions of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus exercises the functions of the National Coordination Biosafety Centre and the National Coordination Centre on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing

➤ The Scientific and Practical Centre for Bioresources, NAS of Belarus, is the institution responsible for implementing of the activities set forth in the Strategy of the Republic of Belarus for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity for 2011-2020.

The genetic resources of the Republic of Belarus are preserved at the Republican DNA Bank of a human, animals, plants and microorganisms, at the National Bank of plant genetic resources and in the genetic collections of institutions.

Thus, the academia of our country actively participates in the activities to accomplish the Convention and its Protocols’ goals and sets objectives to enhance scientific developments used for concrete plans and programs aimed to conserve and sustainably use of biological diversity, ensure safety in genetic engineering activity and legal regulation of access to genetic resources that are the National Heritage of the Republic of Belarus.

I sincerely congratulate all the workshop participants on the occasion of this outstanding date – 25th Anniversary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and I wish you creative success in undertaking of the most important mission of life scientists – conservation of wildlife and its species diversity.

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Academician

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**Non-binding translation*

