



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Japan ratifies 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**

- *99 countries have now ratified the Nagoya Protocol, an innovative treaty on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their use*
- *Government of Japan has played key role in supporting implementation of Nagoya Protocol*
- *Entry into force of Nagoya Protocol in 2014 significant achievement for international community.*

**22 May 2017** – On the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity, Japan became 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 99.

Other countries that have ratified the Nagoya Protocol since the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, held in December 2016, include Angola, Portugal, Qatar, and Sao Tome and Principe.

The Nagoya Protocol is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Protocol builds on the access and benefit-sharing provisions of the Convention 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. Adopted in 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, it entered into force on 12 October 2014.

Dr. Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, said: “I congratulate the Government of Japan. The ratification of the Nagoya Protocol reaffirms the commitment of Japan towards one of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization, which contributes to equity and development.”

Mr. Koichi Yamamoto, Minister of the Environment, Government of Japan, said: “It is an honor for the Government of Japan to deposit the Instrument of Acceptance of the Nagoya Protocol today. The Protocol is named after the host city of CBD-COP10 held in our country at which Japan contributed to its adoption as the Presidency. Since then, Japan has been supporting the implementation of the Protocol in developing countries through the Japan Biodiversity Fund and the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund. We are determined to continue contributing to the international implementation of the Protocol.”

The Government of Japan, through the Japan Biodiversity Fund, organized a number of capacity building activities in 2015-2016 related to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. These included training courses and capacity-building materials developed to support the development of national access and



benefit-sharing frameworks. Similar activities will continue in 2017-2018, thanks to the continued support of the Government of Japan.

A number of countries are currently finalizing their ratification process and the Protocol should reach 100 ratifications shortly.

## **NOTES TO 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 196 Parties so far, 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 and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing are supplementary agreements to the Convention. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force on 11 September 2003, 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 Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. It entered into force on 12 October 2014 and to date has been ratified by 99 Parties. For more information visit: [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int). For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 287 7025 or at [david.ainsworth@cbd.int](mailto:david.ainsworth@cbd.int); or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at [johan.hedlund@cbd.int](mailto:johan.hedlund@cbd.int).

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