

BELARUS WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE GLOBAL ABS CONFERENCE 2020 TO CELEBRATE THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL

Minsk, 29 October 2020: Ten years after the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, the UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project, in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and in collaboration with the Governments of Japan and Jordan, and other partners, is organizing the Global ABS Conference 2020 under the theme #TheABSweALLneed.

The implementation of the Nagoya Protocol plays a critical role in maintaining the natural environment that sustains our health and wellbeing. It brings fairness and equity to environmental governance and promotes innovative solutions in harmony with nature that encourages public-private-community partnerships towards biodiversity conservation. This online Conference will bring together the ABS community, including national authorities, indigenous peoples and local communities, researchers and representatives from the private-sector, donors and other actors, to highlight the progress made in the last 10 years as well as to discuss the vision of “the **ABS we ALL need**” in preparation for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Over the past three years, the UNDP-GEF Global ABS Project has many achievements: 6,656 stakeholders in 23 countries were trained, 18 legal frameworks were drafted, 7 strategies to promote bio-prospecting initiatives were developed, 5 ABS laws and regulations were established and 39 ABS partnerships between bio-prospectors and users of genetic resources were established in 23 countries. More importantly, the largest ABS Community of Practice (the Global ABS Community) has been established throughout this project with more than 500 registered members and 37 available ABS knowledge products.

Belarus has achieved:

- Proposals to harmonize the national legislation with the Nagoya Protocol submitted to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection have been included in the draft concept of the Law “On Genetic Resources Management” of the Republic of Belarus, which is to be adopted in 2021;
- Procedure for legal access to genetic resources has been developed;
- Format of documents required for such a procedure has been developed;
- Mechanism to check, control and monitor the implementation of agreements between the providers and users of genetic resources has been elaborated;
- National procedure for accessing genetic resources and templates of needed documents have been elaborated;
- Technical, including IT tools for the inventory of genetic resources and their utilization monitoring have been developed and are operational.

An inventory of genetic resources and building up Reference DNA Barcodes Libraries have been launched, and activities related to the study and systematization of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources have commenced.

Furthermore, Belarus will actively participate in and support the Global ABS Conference 2020 as a Party to the Nagoya Protocol committed to consolidate ABS as a crucial instrument to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Agenda 2030.

The online Conference will start on Thursday, 29 October, and will continue every Wednesday of November (4, 11, 18 and 25) with the following agenda:

Day 1 (29 October, 9:00 AM New York Time / 8:00 AM Panama Time): Happy Birthday Nagoya Protocol

Day 2 (4 November): ABS for Users I: A Dialogue between Governments and Researchers. This webinar will consist of 3 regional sessions: **Asia-Pacific & CIS countries:** 9:00 AM Brussels time / 3:00 PM Bangkok time; **Africa & Arab countries:** 1:00 PM Brussels time / 3:00 PM Nairobi time and **Latin America and the Caribbean:** 5:00 PM Brussels time/ 11:00 AM Panama time

Day 3 (11 November, 9:00 AM New York time / 8:00 AM Panama time): ABS for Users II: A Dialogue between Governments and Private-Sector Organizations

Day 4 (18 November, 9:00 AM New York time / 8:00 AM Panama time): ABS Dialogue between Governments and Indigenous Peoples: The Lessons Learned

Day 5 (25 November, 9:00 AM New York time / 8:00 AM Panama time): Building “the ABS we all Need” for the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework

Register to the Global ABS Conference following this link: <https://bit.ly/35nUH58>

For more information about the Global ABS Conference 2020, visit:

www.abs-sustainabledevelopment.net

Available content for media: <https://trello.com/b/i0UTcLtg/global-abs-conference-2020-mngtm-board>

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