



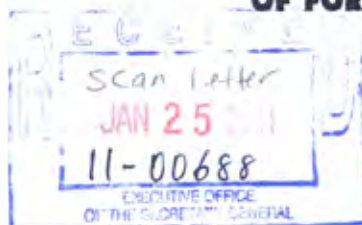
Convention on Biological Diversity

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25 January 2011

Dear Mr. Nambiar,

As you are aware the opening of signature of the new *Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization to the CBD* will take place on 2 February 2011 at 9:15 a.m. in Conference Room E in United Nations headquarters, New York and is being organized by the United Nations treaty section.

We have received information that a number of ministers will be attending the ceremony and will sign the protocol. You will find attached elements of a draft statement of the Secretary General at the opening of this event.

Yours sincerely,


Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

Mr. Vijay Nambiar
Chief of Staff
Office of the Secretary General
United Nations Headquarters

Cc: Ms. Patricia O'Brien
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs
and United Nations Legal Counsel
United Nations Headquarters
Email: Obrien@un.org



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220, Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



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Draft Remarks of the United Nations Secretary General at the Signing Ceremony of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Here we are gathered for the signing ceremony of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing. This is a define moment in the history of the biodiversity family. It marks the operationalization of the third objective of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity opened for signature in Rio, nineteen years ago. It marks also the culmination of a process that began at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, with the call of Heads of State for an International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing.

The adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing is a major success for the international community. It is a major tool for achieving sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It has restored faith in multilateral diplomacy. Its successful adoption, under the leadership of the Government of Japan and with the dedication of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, demonstrates that multilateral cooperation is more than ever indispensable to address the multifaceted challenges facing mankind as family of nations.

The Nagoya Protocol provides the means to translate the Convention's objective into reality. It will benefit all. Indeed, it will provide greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. It will facilitate access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, on the one hand, and support the fair and equitable sharing of benefits with the provider country and indigenous and local communities, on the other.

I urge all States to ratify the Protocol at the earliest possible date to ensure that this achievement translates into reality in the best interest of the international community as a whole and to improve the livelihoods of millions around the globe through equity and justice. Let us work together to ensure the early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol and let us work together to translate its innovative provisions into reality of the people of the world. Under One UN For Biodiversity, we in the United Nations Secretariat stands fully committed to play our role towards a new era of living in Harmony with Nature into the future

I thank you for your kind attention and wish you a very successful ceremony.