



For use by the media only,  
not an official document

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Latvia becomes the first country to ratify the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress**

*Montreal, 7 December 2011* – On 30 November 2011, Latvia became the first country to ratify the Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The first ratification comes just over a year after the Supplementary Protocol was adopted at a historic biodiversity summit held in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.

The Supplementary Protocol aims at contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity by providing international rules and procedures for liability and redress in the event of damage resulting from living modified organisms (LMOs). It will enter into force 90 days after the deposit of the fortieth instrument of ratification. It currently has 36 signatories.

Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity said: “I congratulate Latvia for becoming the first country to ratify the Supplementary Protocol. This demonstrates the commitment and support of the Government of Latvia to the global efforts towards securing a sustainable future for generations to come. I urge all Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to expedite the ratification process so that this international treaty could enter into force before the sixth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol in Hyderabad, India, next year.”

After the entry into force of the Supplementary Protocol, Parties will have an obligation to provide, in new or existing domestic law, for rules and procedures that address damage resulting from LMOs, including response measures to prevent or mitigate damage or to restore biodiversity.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity continues to organize regional workshops to promote the signing and ratification of the Supplementary Protocol, with the financial support of the Government of Japan. The reports and materials of the workshops, including a video presentation on the Supplementary Protocol, are available on the Cartagena Protocol website at [http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/supplementary/NKL\\_workshops.shtml](http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/supplementary/NKL_workshops.shtml).

#### **Notes to Editors**

As an additional treaty to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety seeks to protect biological diversity from potential adverse effects of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. The Protocol was adopted in Montreal on 29 January 2000 and entered into force on 11 September 2003. To date, 161 countries and the European Union are Parties to the Protocol.

The Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was adopted on 15 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, at the fifth meeting of the Parties to the Protocol in its decision BS-V/11. The decision calls upon Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to

sign and subsequently ratify the Supplementary Protocol, and encourages them to implement it pending its entry into force. The Supplementary Protocol was opened for signature on 7 March 2011 and will remain open until 6 March 2012.

The text of the Supplementary Protocol is available at: [https://bch.cbd.int/protocol/NKL\\_text.shtml](https://bch.cbd.int/protocol/NKL_text.shtml).

The list of signatories to the Supplementary Protocol is available at: <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/parties/#tab=1>.

For additional information, please contact:

Ms. Ulrika Nilsson on +1 514 287 8720 or at [ulrika.nilsson@cbd.int](mailto:ulrika.nilsson@cbd.int)

Mr. Erie Tamale on +1 514 287 7050 or at [erie.tamale@cbd.int](mailto:erie.tamale@cbd.int)

or visit: <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/>.

-----