



PRESS RELEASE

Bahrain to become the 163rd Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Montreal, 13 February 2012 – Bahrain deposited its instrument of accession to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 7 February 2012 and will become the 163rd Party to the Protocol on 7 May 2012.

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is a legally binding agreement governing the transboundary movement of living modified organisms (LMOs), also commonly known as genetically modified organisms (GMOs), resulting from modern biotechnology. It seeks to protect biodiversity from potential adverse effects by LMOs, taking also into account risks to human health, by providing an international regulatory framework for ensuring their safe transfer, handling and use. The Protocol was adopted on 29 January 2000 and entered into force on 11 September 2003.

Dr. Adel Khalifa Al Zayani, Director General of the Bahrain Public Commission for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife, and the National Focal Point for the Protocol said: “This is an important Protocol that will ensure Bahrain is allowed to deal with genetically-improved species legally and under United Nations rules and regulations.”

Welcoming the news, Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, said: “Bahrain’s accession to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety sends a strong message to the world on the need for a concerted global action towards protecting biological diversity from all potential threats. I call upon Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Protocol as soon as possible.”

The list of all Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is available on the Protocol website at: <http://bch.cbd.int/protocol/parties/>.

For fact sheets on the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, please visit https://bch.cbd.int/protocol/cpb_factsheets.shtml.

For more information on the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, please visit www.cbd.int/2011-2020/.

Notes for 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 193 Parties, 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.

Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is a subsidiary agreement to the Convention. It seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 162 countries plus the European Union have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol is located in Montreal. For more information visit: www.cbd.int. For press enquiries, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 287 7025 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int; or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 287 6670 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int.
