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DEPARTMENT OF MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS
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PRESS RELEASE

Bhutan Deposits Instrument of Ratification for the Nagoya Protocol at the 2013 Treaty Event, United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 30 September 2013

Lyonpo Rinzin Dorje, Minister for Foreign Affairs and the leader of RGoB's delegation to the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly, deposited Bhutan's Instrument of Ratification for the Nagoya Protocol with Mr. Stephen Mathias, Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, at the 2013 Treaty Event at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 30 September 2013. The deposit of the Instrument of Ratification for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in keeping with Bhutan's commitment to international law and as a State Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Nagoya Protocol was ratified by the Ninth Session of the First Parliament of Bhutan in 2012. It is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It provides a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of one of the three objectives of the Convention -- the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

The Nagoya Protocol was adopted on 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, during the Tenth Meeting of the Parties to the Convention. In accordance with Article 32, the Nagoya Protocol was opened for signature by States Parties to the Convention at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 2 February 2011 until 1 February 2012. In total, 92 countries have signed the Nagoya Protocol and 23 have already ratified it. The Nagoya Protocol will enter into force after ratification by fifty states.



Multilateral Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
1st October 2013