

Statement of African participants

With the Nagoya Protocol having entered into force in 2014, the great challenge in our countries remains its implementation. India was one of the first countries to implement Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS), and there is a multitude of projects addressing the issue of traditional knowledge and genetic resources in innovative ways. While approaches to the documentation of traditional knowledge in our countries differ, what we have seen in India has reinforced our belief that with a good awareness raising among local communities and the guarantee to secure their knowledge we could develop, in a participatory manner, valuable inventories of our resources and associated knowledge.

We, the African participants

- are committed to promote awareness of the Nagoya Protocol in our communities;
- encourage our countries to take legislative steps to include the customary rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in their ABS regulations;
- commit ourselves, alongside our governments, to encourage the documentation of traditional knowledge at the local and national level.

We, the African participants of the Community-to-Community Exchange and Capacity Building Workshop for Traditional Knowledge Holders in Bangalore, warmly thank the organisers for this opportunity to share the Indian experiences in ABS and reiterate our commitments in our different countries.

We invite our partners present at this workshop – the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, the Transdisciplinary University of Bangalore, the Equator Initiative (UNDP), Bioversity International and the Forum for Law, Environment, Development and Governance – to continue to support and accompany African local communities in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

We will not end without thanking the local communities who welcomed us and were willing to share with us their experiences.

We thank our governments for having ratified the Nagoya Protocol .

Representatives from following African countries:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Kenya, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland and Togo.

Participants to the Community-to-Community Exchange and Capacity Development Workshop for Traditional Knowledge Holders, 28 September to 4 October 2015, Bangalore, India



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CAPACITY
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L'INITIATIVE DE
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