



United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

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Dear Mr. Drews,

I am pleased to write to you shortly after the successful conclusion of the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ICNP 3), held from 24 to 28 February in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to you and to your team for your active involvement in the meeting, which, in no small measure, contributed to the success of the meeting. I was very pleased to hear interventions during the meeting from many country delegations commending the work of the Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS) Capacity Development Initiative and its positive impact in assisting countries advance their national processes towards the ratification and entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol. I was particularly pleased to learn that, thanks to the financial support of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, the African Union Commission is making great progress towards developing regional guidelines to ensure the coordinated implementation of the Protocol for the African region.

It was equally a great pleasure for me to take part in the side event on the outcomes of a dialogue recently organized by the Initiative, which provided an opportunity to exchange experiences and lessons learnt with respect to past ABS implementation in Brazil, India and South Africa. I hope that more follow up dialogues such as this will be organized by the Initiative in the future as these types of exchanges are critical to ensuring coherence and will be complementary to the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

As you are well aware, among its key outcomes, ICNP 3 reached a recommendation to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to adopt, at its first meeting, a draft strategic framework on capacity-building that will be the cornerstone of our work and will play an integral role for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The strategic framework lays the foundation for enhanced coordination, coherence and synergy in view of maximizing the impact and overall contribution of capacity-building initiatives in support of the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

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In this context, I look forward to further enhancing and strengthening our partnership and to working closely with the Initiative as we pave the way forward for the implementation of this new strategic framework.

I also hope that the Initiative will continue to play a leadership role and scale up its efforts so that we can collectively work towards ensuring the timely entry into force and implementation of the Protocol.

Yours sincerely,



Bráulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary