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Third ABS Dialogue on Key Challenges and Practical Ways forward for the full Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and its contribution to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

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Ladies and Gentlemen, dear participants and national authorities that are here today, welcome to Mexico and to this **“Third Dialogue” on the main challenges and practical ways forward for the full implementation of the Nagoya Protocol** and its contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Since the Earth Summit carried out in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, Mexico has taken on before the international community, a firm and determined commitment with the conservation of the world's natural capital.

Just two days ago, on May 22nd, we joined the world’s celebrations of the International Day for Biological Diversity, to highlight the importance of the great natural wealth that sustains life on the planet, our lives, and our development. On this occasion, Mexico has something new to celebrate:

Today, the productive and tourism sectors agendas include considerations for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in their business plans, programmes and strategies.

During this National Week that celebrates our biodiversity, different topics on sustainable use of emblematic species are being reviewed, as the case of the Morelet's crocodile, today being used by the fashion industry committed to sustainable sourcing and using this commitment from a competitiveness and strategic business approach.

This focus was precisely the central theme of the United Nations Conference on Biodiversity, held in December 2016 in Cancun, Mexico: the mainstreaming of biodiversity for well-being.

Mexico proposed this topic, acknowledging the importance of involving the sectors that implement environmental policies, to achieve the sustainable development goals, including the global commitments for the conservation of our shared natural heritage.

And during this Federal Administration, we have made good progress in these commitments, for example going from having 25 million hectares from natural protected areas, to about 91 million hectares, a territory equivalent to that of Nigeria; twice the territory of Paraguay or the territories of Spain and Germany together.

Last November, President Enrique Peña Nieto, decreed the Revillagigedo National Park in favor of the protection of the Natural Heritage of Mexico; recognizing that the protection of biodiversity is a value of Mexican society and a priority for the Federal Government. Mexico has thus joined the small group of countries that have complied with the marine component of Goal 11 of Aichi to the creation of a global network of protected areas.

Our natural protection policy is accompanied by the promotion the sustainable use of this natural wealth; not only because every inch of the national territory has an owner, but because this natural capital offers an opportunity for development to local communities, indigenous peoples and all Mexicans

The political momentum achieved in COP13 has allowed our country to move towards the full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The subject which brings us here today, in this Third ABS Dialogue, is of great relevance for our country.

Overexploitation of natural resources; the illegal trafficking of species and the misuse or misappropriation of genetic resources can be tackled with clear schemes that generate benefits for all.

For this reason, in Mexico we are fully convinced of the potential of the Nagoya Protocol to promote sustainable, inclusive and facilitating development, ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources and their associated traditional knowledge.

During President Peña's Administration, 22 Federal Government agencies worked hand in hand to prepare the proposal for a specific legal instrument for the national implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

Knowing that public policy requires specific capacities for its implementation, we present a project proposal to the Global Environment Facility, the GEF, focused on capacity building for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol in Mexico.

This Project is now a reality and after its first year has delivered very important results, training more than 500 public servants and researchers, as well as different local and indigenous communities representative of our cultural heritage.

I take this opportunity to thank the United Nations Development Programme that, from its office in Mexico, supports us in its coordination.

I also thank the GIZ (Mr. Lossack); the ABS Initiative (Mr. al-Janabi), and all of you, experts in the field, for your time and effort.

Your presence here today undoubtedly demonstrates that you, like Mexico, are committed to achieving real progress, and as soon as possible, for the full implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, the Convention on Biological Diversity and our common development goals.

Now, if you allow me, I invite you to stand up and accompany me for the formal opening.

Being the XXX hours of today Thursday, May 24th, 2018, I declared formally installed the "Third ABS Dialogue on the Key Challenges and Practical Forms for the full implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and its contribution to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda"

Congratulations!

Thank you very much