

**Statement from DIVERSITAS at the Nagoya Protocol COP-MOP 1 for Item 14 on Cooperation with other international organizations, conventions and initiatives**

Thank you Mister/Madam Chair,

This is a statement on behalf of DIVERSITAS, the international programme of biodiversity science under the auspices of ICSU and UNESCO.

DIVERSITAS strongly welcomes the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol.

We have been very honoured to work with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to support the mainstreaming of the Nagoya Protocol.

DIVERSITAS coordinated a pilot study that assessed opportunities for facilitated access for academic research in compliance with the implementation of Article 8(a) of the Nagoya Protocol.

The project was undertaken in partnership with the International Council for Science Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ICSU-ROLAC), the Swiss Academy of Sciences (SCNAT) and the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) and in collaboration with two other initiatives in the Latin American and Caribbean region, one undertaken by the University of Bonn and the other by the International Union for Conservation of Nature – Regional Office for South America (IUCN-Sur).

The project successfully created a dialogue between government and academic sectors of 9 countries in the region (Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru) on issues pertaining to the change of intent from non-commercial to commercial research and considerations of favorable conditions to facilitate access for academic research.

The project's results are presented in the document UNEP/CBD/NP/COP-MOP/1/INF/7 that is freely available on the DIVERSITAS website and in the Nagoya Protocol clearing house.

In conclusion, the participants from the government and academic sectors were unanimous in calling for the replication of this experience in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as in other regions of the world. This call and the success of the dialogue underline the need for adequate institutional and financial support for such replication to take place.

Thank you Mister/Madam Chair.