



"Use of genetic resources in plant breeding: United Nations Convention on Diversity (COP15), conclusions of the EU Council"

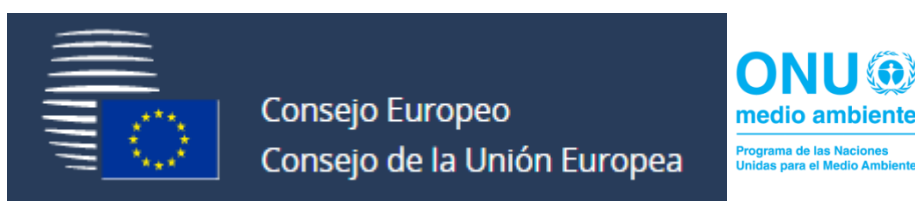
In the HARNESSTOM project we characterize and use genetic resources to improve tomato varieties. One of the activities of the project is aimed at monitoring the evolution of international conventions and agreements related to the use of sources of diversity and how to guarantee a return to the nations and communities that conserve those Genetic Resources.

On 24 October 2022, the Council of the European Union reported¹ on the approval of the terms of reference for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15), as well as the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol to be held from 7 to 19 December 2022 in Montreal.

These conclusions will serve as the EU's general negotiating position the meetings. As reported by the Council itself, these conclusions call for the adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework post-2020, that is comprehensive and transformative and includes long-term goals for 2050, as well as intermediate goals for 2030, which effectively and simultaneously address the drivers of biodiversity loss.

The EU's stated objectives and goals include, among others, "eliminating all illegal, unsustainable or unsafe harvest, trade and use of wild species, halting human induced extinctions of known threatened species" and "harnessing the full potential of nature-based solutions".

The Council in its conclusions "confirms its willingness to contribute to identifying a solution on the issue of 'digital sequence information on genetic resources' (DSI) and stresses that any solution needs among other things to be based on existing practices in databases, preserve open access to DSI from public databases and ensure that shared benefits will contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and support Sustainable Development Goals".



¹ See COUNCIL OF THE EU, Press release, 24 Oct. 2022, "Council approves conclusions for UN biodiversity summit in Montreal (COP15)" (available at: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/es/press/press-releases/2022/10/24/council-approves-conclusions-for-un-biodiversity-summit-in-montreal-cop15/>) (date of last consultation: 14/11/2022).

