

5. The Party to which such question is directed shall acknowledge the question in writing, provide a response in a timely manner to the person and provide a copy to the National Coordinating Officer of the other Party.
6. Each Party shall make publicly available in a timely manner all questions and the responses, and shall report on an annual basis with respect to those questions and responses.
7. The Parties shall inform the public of activities, including meetings of the Parties and cooperative activities, undertaken to implement this Agreement.
8. The Parties shall endeavour to engage the public in activities undertaken to implement this Agreement.
9. The Parties shall strive to cooperate to strengthen public participation in all matters related to the implementation of this Agreement.

Article 5: Biological Diversity

1. The Parties recognize the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in achieving sustainable development and reiterate their commitment to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
2. The Parties also reiterate their commitment, as established by the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, to respect, preserve and maintain traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, subject to national legislation.
3. The Parties reiterate their sovereign rights over their natural resources and recognize their authority and obligations as established by the *Convention on Biological Diversity* with respect to access to genetic resources, and to the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of those genetic resources.
4. The Parties also recognize the importance of public participation and consultation, as provided by domestic law, on matters concerning the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
5. The Parties agree to cooperate on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity within the framework provided by Section II of this Agreement.