



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

PRESS RELEASE

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**Intergovernmental meeting to discuss implementation of the
Convention on Biological Diversity**

Montreal 2 September 2005 –Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meet in Montreal from 5 to 9 September 2005, to consider a variety of issues relating to the effective implementation of the objectives of the CBD including its Strategic Plan and the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

“The meeting will allow Parties to address important issues regarding the implementation of the Convention” said Hamdallah Zedan, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity. “Their discussions will contribute to reinforcing the Convention’s leadership role in international biodiversity issues, and will further lend assistance to national implementation.”

This first meeting of the *Ad hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention* will discuss the following issues:

- Progress in the implementation of the Convention, including progress towards the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan, the goals and targets of the 2010 framework, and the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Parties will identify obstacles to implementation, including at the national level and define ways and means of overcoming them.
- The impacts and effectiveness of existing processes under the Convention. Parties will evaluate whether existing processes are sufficient to respond to the goals, objectives, and implementation challenges of the Convention, and recommend operational changes to improve the Convention’s efficiency.
- Cooperation with other conventions and relevant organizations, and engagement with stakeholders in the implementation of the CBD, focusing on cross-sectoral integration of biodiversity-related issues at national and international levels through mechanisms such as a global partnership on biodiversity
- The mechanisms and processes for monitoring progress in the implementation of the Convention, including the 2010 framework, the Global Biodiversity Outlook, reviews of programmes of work, national reports, and a potential process for reviewing progress towards the four goals of the Strategic Plan.

“Achieving the objectives of the Convention will require involvement beyond ministries of the environment” indicated Zedan. “All sectors of society must be involved if biodiversity is to be conserved and sustainably used and its benefits equitably shared.”

About the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention

At the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2004, the Parties recognized the need for a process to evaluate, report and review the Strategic Plan of the Convention. They therefore established the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, with a mandate to consider four main issues:

- Progress on implementation of the Strategic Plan and the 2010 target, particularly at the national level;
- Review of the impacts and effectiveness of Convention processes and bodies;
- Cooperation with other conventions, organizations and initiatives and stakeholder engagement;
- Methods to evaluate progress in the implementation of the Convention.

This is the first meeting of this group.

Information for journalists:

What: Intergovernmental meeting on the review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Where: ICAO Building, 999 University Street, Montreal, Canada

When: 5 to 9 September 2005

Accreditation: Media accreditation forms are available online at: <http://www.biodiv.org/programmes/outreach/press/acreditations.asp> Send your completed form to the CBD Secretariat by fax (+1 514 288 6588) or e-mail (secretariat@biodiv.org)

More information: Official meeting documents and information for participants can be found at: <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.aspx?mtg=WGRI-01>

The Convention on Biological Diversity is one of the most broadly-subscribed international environmental treaties in the world. Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro in 1992, it currently has 187 states and the European Community who have committed themselves to its three main goals: the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. The Secretariat is located in Montreal, Canada.

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