



CBD

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

COMMUNIQUÉ

Not an official document.

22 May 2007
International Day for Biological Diversity



Biodiversity and Climate Change

MEETING TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION ON THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OPENS IN PARIS

Paris – 10 July 2007: The second meeting of the Working Group on the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (WGRI 2) opened yesterday at UNESCO headquarters, in Paris with more than 320 participants from around the world. The meeting was opened by Mr. Antônio José Rezende Castro from Brazil, representing Her Excellency Marina Silva, Minister of Environment of Brazil as President of the Conference of the Parties (COP 8). Key speakers at the opening ceremony included: Ms. Monique Barbut, Chief Executive Officer and Chair of the Global Environment Facility (GEF); Mr. Walter Erdelen, representing Mr. Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO; and Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaïf, Executive Secretary of the Convention.

In his address Ambassador Castro, recalled the adoption of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development fifteen years ago in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, setting the stage and the conceptual framework for the current international sustainable development debate. He also stated that, “recalling the Rio-92 Conference also means reaffirming our commitment to the three objectives of the CBD, based on a vision that transcends particular interests and involves our confidence that through political decision, international solidarity and effective cooperation we will ensure a better world for future generations.”

Mr. Erdelen noted three means for successfully implementing the Convention, based on its longstanding experience with the CBD: the first being the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA), stating that “succeeding in relation to communication, education public awareness on biodiversity will result in successfully mainstreaming the main messages of the Convention and in making significant progress in the fulfillment of its objectives.”; the second, to effectively implement the CBD ecosystem approach ; and the third strategic partnerships with sister organizations.

Ms. Barbut reaffirmed the commitment of the GEF to provide wholehearted service and support to the implementation of the Convention and said that it was fundamental for us to move commitments of the Convention from paper to reality across the globe. She also noted that the GEF Council had approved her proposal for a revised biodiversity strategy to better serve countries’ commitments to their biodiversity goals. She also stated that, “among all the Conventions, it is only the Biodiversity Convention which is the path to stewardship for all life on Earth.”

Mr. Djoghlaïf said that, “the enhanced phase of implementation of the three objectives of the Convention requires the establishment of a new global partnership between the



world's nations, linked in solidarity by the inescapable fact that they share, by necessity, a single destiny and a common future.” Mr. Djoghlaif quoted Jean Jacques Rousseau saying “great occasions make great men” and added that “great occasions make lasting institutions”. He went on to add that the meeting would indeed provide a great occasion for a great institution to do what it was intended to do, and to fulfil its promises in the service of a great cause: the protection of life on Earth.

The participants will review and share experiences related to the preparation and implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) prepared so far by 147 countries, in order to integrate the target and objectives of the Convention and mainstream biodiversity into development strategies. The participants will also discuss the ways and means to enhance the implementation of the Convention. The report of the meeting will be submitted to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Bonn from 19 to 30 May 2008.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

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 190 Parties—189 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 utilization of genetic resources. The headquarters of the Secretariat of the Convention is located in Montreal. For additional information, please contact Marie Aminata Khan at +1 514 287 8701; e-mail: marie.khan@cbd.int