

From: Ghanem A. Mohammad [mailto:gamohammad@qatarenv.org.qa]
Sent: Monday, December 01, 2008 3:32 AM
To: secretariat
Subject: FW: FW: CBD Notification 2008-151 - An Electronic Forum on the Updating and Revision of the Strategi

From: S Faizi [mailto:biodiversity@rediffmail.com]
Sent: Monday, December 01, 2008 9:59 AM
To: Ghanem A. Mohammad
Subject: Re: FW: CBD Notification 2008-151 - An Electronic Forum on the Updating and Revision of the Strategi

SECRETARIAT@cbd.int

SUBMISSION OF QATAR

Dear Mr Djoghlaif,

I thank you for sending us the notification. I would like to offer the following comments on the Revision of the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

We would like to see a focus laid on the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, rather than further developing each and every one of the articles of the convention. The Convention text only calls for the development of the biosafety protocol and the modalities for liability and compensation. This means that all other provisions are complete and obligatory as such to the Parties.

Therefore the CoP should provide emphasis on the review of how the Parties have implemented the various provisions of the treaties and address the major difficulties in implementation.

I would also urge the secretariat of CBD to closely study the operations of the CITES secretariat who often play a serious role in enabling, though the legal status of both the secretariats are the same (that they are not implementing bodies as such). It is important to examine how the secretariat can play a more serious enabling role in implementation. If the CoP has to address this issue, then this has to be put on its agenda.

In furthering implementation, it is also important to seek the partnership of various regional organisations. In our region, the GCC, Arab League and OIC play important roles with respect to policy setting and program developments in natural resources management in the member countries and therefore there should be efforts to seriously involve these organisations in CBD implementation in the region. The secretariat should also play an enabling role in this respect.

I would particularly want to note that no regional level CBD activity in the GCC region has ever been held with the involvement of the secretariat, in fact a regional training

program on biosafety was to be cancelled as the secretariate could not provide for the travel of one of its experts. I want to underline that capacity building measures are critical for the implementation of CBD in the GCC region.

I send you all the for formulating the revised draft document.

Sincerely
Ghanem A.Mohammad
CBD National Focal Point
Qatar