

**Letter of Intent
Between
Canadian Universities and Research Institutions
and The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

Recalling that the objectives of the Convention are the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;

Recalling also that the objective of the Cartagena Protocol is to contribute to ensuring an adequate level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, and specifically focusing on transboundary movements;

Recalling further Article 12 of the Convention, on Research and Training, and Article 18 of the Convention, on Technical and Scientific Cooperation;

Recalling as well Article 22 of the Cartagena Protocol, on Capacity-Building;

Recalling further decision II/19 by which the Conference of the Parties accepted the offer of Canada to host in Montreal the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Headquarters Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Secretariat of the Convention signed in New York on 25 October 1996;

Aware of Canada's international reputation in research and development, and of the tremendous stores of knowledge and research capacity held by Canadian universities and research institutions in fields of relevance to the three objectives of the Convention;

Noting that successful implementation of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety will depend on bringing to bear the best available scientific and technical knowledge;

We, the Executive Secretary of the Convention and the [representatives] of Canadian universities and research institutions, have agreed as follows:

Objective

The overall aim of this Letter of Intent is to promote a strong scientific and technical partnership between Convention processes and Canadian universities and research institutions, in support of the enhanced phase of implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol.

Areas of Cooperation

The parties to this Letter of Intent will:

1. Develop mechanisms for the sharing of scientific and technical information and advice of relevance to the programmes of work of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol, including:
 - (i) a thematic roster of experts to which relevant faculty and researchers are nominated;
 - (ii) a peer-review process for the Convention's scientific and technical reports and other materials, to which academic experts may contribute;
 - (iii) the organization of presentations, seminar series or other academic fora addressing issues of relevance to the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol.
2. Provide opportunities for outstanding students and recent graduates of their respective institutions, in fields of study of relevance to the objectives of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol, to contribute to and learn from the work of the Secretariat, by:
 - (i) encouraging students to address research themes and issues of relevance to the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol, in their assignments, papers and/or theses;
 - (ii) establishing a [fellowship] [program] by which current students are chosen to undertake internships at the Secretariat;
 - (iii) facilitating recently graduated Master's and PhD students to join the secretariat for short term assignments;
3. Provide advice on training materials and modules aimed at enhancing implementation of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol, particularly in developing countries, and contribute, where appropriate, to training programmes developed under the Convention;
4. Contribute as appropriate to the preparation and celebration of International Biodiversity Day, and throughout the International Year for Biodiversity, in 2010;
5. Promote other mutually supportive activities, as may be agreed.

Modalities of Cooperation

1. Each university and research institute, and the Secretariat, will designate a focal point for advancing the objectives of this Memorandum and mutually agreed activities, and for facilitating the exchange of information on all issues of relevance to scientific and technical cooperation;
2. A steering committee comprising a representative of the Convention and designated focal points from universities and research institutions will be established to support the enhanced provision of scientific and technical support to Convention processes, and enhanced support to implementation.
3. At its first meeting, the steering committee will develop a workplan for the 2007/2008 biennium.

*Prepared in Montreal, Canada
May 23, 2006*

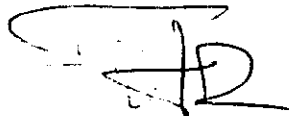
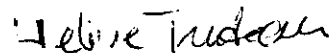
Signed this 23rd day of May 2006 at Montreal, Canada



Dr. François Crépeau
Scientific Director
Centre d'études et de recherches
internationales de l'Université de Montréal
(CÉRIUM)

Dr. Hélène Trudeau
Director

Centre de Développement de la Recherche
Internationale en Environnement (CEDRIE)



Dr. Daniel Weinstock
Professor
Département de philosophie

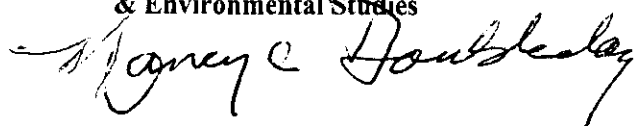
Dr. Robert Kasisi
Professor

Faculté de l'Aménagement



Dr. Céline Nègre
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Dr. Nancy C. Doubleday
Professor & Associate Chair
Department of Geography
& Environmental Studies



Ahmed Daghla
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention
on Biological Diversity

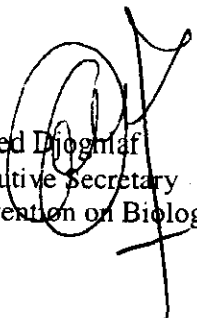
M. Gilles Vincent
Directeur
Jardin Botanique de Montréal

Signed this 13th day of June 2006 at Montreal, Canada



Dr. Frank Müller
Professor
Department of Economics

On behalf of the Faculty of Arts and Science
Concordia University

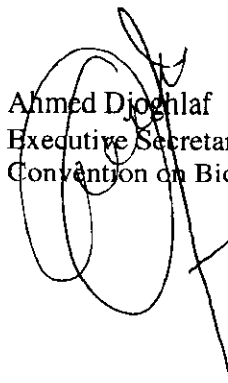


Ahmed Djoghlaf
Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological Diversity

Signed this 7th day of July 2006 at Montreal, Canada



Dr. Ingrid Stefanovic
Director
Centre for Environment
University of Toronto

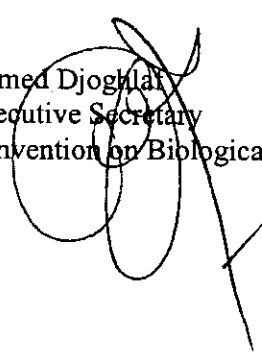


Ahmed Djoghla
Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological Diversity

Signed this 26th day of September 2006 at Montréal, Québec

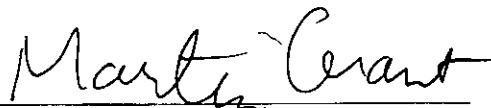


M. Claude Hamel
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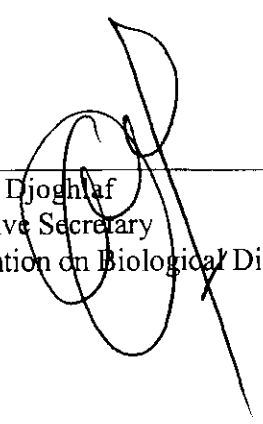


Ahmed Djoghla
Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological Diversity

Signed this11..... day ofDecember..... 2006 atMontreal.....



Dr. Martin Grant
Dean of the Faculty of Science
McGill University


Ahmed Djoghla
Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological Diversity