



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



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BONN, 13 MAY 2008, 9:30 A.M. HOTEL MARITIM, SAAL REGER

As talks get underway to review the progress made so far with the implementation of the Protocol and take additional decisions to advance the process, the Government of Germany and the Convention will hold their first press conference on the issues. In attendance will be:

Ms. Ursula Heinen, Deputy Minister of the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (BMELV)

Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, Director for the Department of Nature Conservation, German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)

Hailed by the Executive Director of UNEP as the legal international instrument of the twenty-first century, the Protocol aims at promoting the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The Protocol now has 147 Parties and many Governments are accelerating their procedure of accession to this innovative legal international instrument.

Almost five years since the Protocol entered into force, the Parties have adopted more than 40 substantive decisions to guide its implementation. One of the major breakthroughs was the adoption, at the last meeting, held in Brazil in 2006, of the detailed requirements for documentation accompanying shipments of LMOs intended for direct use as food or feed or for processing.



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