



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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SECOND MEETING OF THE SECOND  
AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP  
ON BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
Helsinki, Finland, 18 – 22 April 2009

### Information Note for Participants

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## 1. Opening and registration

The Second meeting of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change will be held in Helsinki, Finland from Saturday, 18 to Wednesday, 22 April 2009.

The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, 18 April, and registration will take place at the venue of the meeting at 8:30 a.m. the same day.

## 2. Venue

The meeting will be held at:

### **The Ministry of the Environment**

Kasarmikatu 25

00023 Helsinki, Finland

Tel: +358-2061-0100

Fax: +358-9-1603-9320

Web site: <http://www.environment.fi>

## 3. Working language of the meeting

The meeting will be held in English.

## 4. Documents



Documents are available on the Secretariat's web site at:

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=AHTEG-BDCC-02-02>

## 5. General information on access to Helsinki, Finland



Helsinki is serviced by the Vantaa International airport (19 km North of Helsinki City centre). Participants may use Finnair City Bus to the City Terminal to reach the city centre (railway station in the City Center), it departs from the airport every 20 minutes, or you may wish to take a taxi.

More information on local transportation can be found at <http://www.reittiopas.com/>. You may use this web site to check the best route e.g. between your hotel and the meeting venue.

### Taxi to and from the airport

The taxi journey from the airport to the centre of Helsinki takes nearly half an hour and costs about 35-40 €. There are taxi stations right outside the Arrivals Halls of the Domestic and International terminals. Service desks for the taxi operators can be found at Arrival halls 1 and 2.

### Bus from the airport

At the airport, the bus stops are situated in front of the domestic flights terminal and the international flights terminal. For the location of bus stops and the route of AirPort Bus, go to <http://www.helsinki-vantaa.fi/home>.

### Bus to the airport

Bus services from Helsinki City take you to the airport comfortably and rapidly, the journey from Helsinki City by bus No. 615 takes approximately 35 minutes.

There are a number of other bus connections from various parts of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area to the airport.

## **6. Visa information**

Participants from countries listed in **annex A** below (page 5) require a Schengen entry visa for Finland and participants from countries appearing on the list are strongly advised to contact the nearest Finnish diplomatic or consular mission **as soon as possible** in order to secure the required entry visa in a timely manner, prior to departure.

Information on visa procedures, including a list of relevant Finnish diplomatic/consular missions abroad is available on the web site of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland at: <http://formin.finland.fi/public/?contentid=50910&contentlan=2&culture=en-US>.

To facilitate the issuance of visas, the Secretariat will issue upon request invitation letters to be attached to the visa applications.

## **7. Hotel information**

Below is an indicative list of hotels (**annex B**) located in the vicinity of the meeting venue. Further information on hotels in Helsinki is available at the following web-site: [http://www.visitfinland.com/w5/index.nsf/\(pages\)/Hotels](http://www.visitfinland.com/w5/index.nsf/(pages)/Hotels)

Information on tourism in Finland is available at the following web-site:

[http://www.visitfinland.com/w5/index.nsf/\(pages\)/index](http://www.visitfinland.com/w5/index.nsf/(pages)/index)



Participants are kindly reminded that **they must make their own hotel reservations as soon as possible**.

## **8. Payment of the Daily Subsistence Allowances (DSA)**

Sponsored participants will receive their DSA on the first day of the meeting.

## **9. Official languages in Helsinki, Finland**

The official languages in Finland are Finnish and Swedish.

## 10. Weather and time zone information



In March and April, temperatures in Helsinki usually range between a maximum of +7°C in the daytime and a minimum of - 1°C at night. Current weather conditions can be found at: <http://www.worldweather.org/061/c00168.htm>.

The standard time zone will be GMT + 3 hours.

## 11. Electricity

The electrical currents are 230 volts, 50 Hertz.



## 12. Currency



The currency in Finland is the Euro (€). The current exchange rate as at 12 February 2009 is US \$1.00 = €0.78 and €1.00 = US \$1.28.

## 13. Disclaimer

The CBD Secretariat disclaims all responsibility for medical, accident and travel insurance, for compensation for death or disability compensation, for loss of or damage to personal property and for any other loss that may be incurred during travel time or the period of participation. In this context, it is strongly recommended to secure international medical insurance for the period of participation prior to departure.

## Annex A – Visa Requirements

### COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES WHOSE CITIZENS REQUIRE A SCHENGEN VISA IN ORDER TO ENTER FINLAND AS VISITORS (THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF FINLAND)

Citizens of the following countries and territories **require** a visa to **visit** Finland:

<b>A</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M (Cont'd)</b>	<b>S (Cont'd)</b>
Afghanistan	Fiji	Moldova	Somalia
Albania		Mongolia	South Africa
Algeria	<b>G</b>	Montenegro	Sri Lanka
Angola	Gabon	Morocco	Sudan
Antigua and Barbuda	Gambia	Mozambique	Suriname
Armenia	Georgia	Myanmar	Swaziland
Azerbaijan	Ghana		Syrian Arab Republic
	Grenada	<b>N</b>	
<b>B</b>	Guinea	Namibia	<b>T</b>
Bahamas	Guinea-Bissau	Nauru	Tajikistan
Bahrain	Guyana	Nepal	Tanzania, United Republic of
Bangladesh		Niger	Thailand
Barbados	<b>H</b>	Nigeria	Timor Leste
Belarus	Haiti		The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Belize		<b>O</b>	Togo
Benin	<b>I</b>	Oman	Tonga
Bhutan	India		Trinidad and Tobago
Bolivia	Iran, Islamic Republic of	<b>P</b>	Tunisia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Indonesia	Pakistan	Turkmenistan
Botswana	Iraq	Palau	Turkey
Burkina Faso		Palestinian Authority Area	Tuvalu
Burundi	<b>J</b>	Papua New Guinea	
	Jamaica	Peru	
<b>C</b>	Jordan	Philippines	
Cambodia			<b>U</b>
Cameroon	<b>K</b>	<b>Q</b>	Uganda
Cape Verde	Kazakhstan	Qatar	Ukraine
Central African Republic	Kenya		United Arab Emirates
Chad	Kiribati	<b>R</b>	Uzbekistan
China	Korea, Democratic People's Republic of	Russian Federation	
Colombia	Kosovo	Rwanda	<b>V</b>
Comoros	Kuwait		Vanuatu
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	Kyrgyzstan	<b>S</b>	Viet Nam
Congo, Republic of the		Saint Kitts and Nevis	
Côte d'Ivoire	<b>L</b>	Saint Lucia	<b>Y</b>
Croatia	Lao, People's Democratic Republic of	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Yemen
Cuba	Lebanon	Samoa	
	Lesotho	Sao Tomé e Príncipe	<b>Z</b>
<b>D</b>	Liberia	Saudi Arabia	Zambia
Djibouti	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Senegal	Zimbabwe
Dominica		Serbia	
Dominican Republic	<b>M</b>	Seychelles	
	Madagascar	Sierra Leone	
<b>E</b>	Malawi	Solomon Islands	
Ecuador	Maldives		
Equatorial Guinea	Mali		
Egypt	Marshall Islands		
Eritrea	Mauritania		
Ethiopia	Mauritius		
	Micronesia, Fed. States of		

## Annex B – Hotel Listing

### LIST OF HOTELS WITH INDICATIVE ROOM RATES

Rates are indicative and subject to change

HOTELS	Approximate room rates	Distance to the meeting venue	Remarks
<b>1. Scandic Hotel Marski</b> Mannerheimintie 10 Telephone: +358 9 680 61 Fax: +358 9 642 377 e-mail: <a href="mailto:marski@scandichotels.com">marski@scandichotels.com</a> Web site: <a href="http://www.scandichotels.fi/marski">www.scandichotels.fi/marski</a>	138 euro/person including breakfast.  Booking: Rooms should be booked by 26.3.09 with reference YMP170409 / AHTEG	Distance from the venue: 0,5 Km	Walking distance.
<b>2. Hotel Torni</b> Yrjönkatu 26, Helsinki Telephone: +358 (0) 20 1234 604 Fax: +358 (0) 20 1234 646 e-mail: <a href="mailto:torni.helsinki@sokoshotels.fi">torni.helsinki@sokoshotels.fi</a> Web site: <a href="http://www.sokoshotels.fi">www.sokoshotels.fi</a>	140 Euro/person. Incl. breakfast and morning sauna.  Booking: Rooms should be booked by 9.4. with reference to AHTEG.	Distance from the venue: 0,7 Km	Walking distance.
<b>3. Radisson SAS Seaside Hotel, Helsinki</b> Ruoholahdenranta 3, Helsinki Telephone: +358 (0) 20 1234 700 Telefax: +358 (0) 20 1234 742 e-mail: <a href="mailto:Groups.Finland@RadissonSAS.com">Groups.Finland@RadissonSAS.com</a> Web site: <a href="http://www.radissonsas.com">www.radissonsas.com</a>	112 Euro/person incl. breakfast, sauna and free broadband.  Booking: Rooms should be booked by 7.4. with reference to AHTEG.	Distance from the venue: Walking distance ca. 2,0 km.	Taxi 10 min. Cost: approx 10 Euros.  Public transport: Tram number 6 goes by the hotel, and stops in the City centre.
<b>4. Hotelli Cumulus Kaisaniemi, Helsinki</b> Kaisaniemenkatu 7 00100 Helsinki Telephone: +358 9 172 881 Telefax: +358 9 605 379 e-mail: <a href="mailto:kaisaniemi.cumulus@restel.fi">kaisaniemi.cumulus@restel.fi</a> Web site: <a href="http://www.cumulus.fi">www.cumulus.fi</a>	115,4 Euro/person incl. breakfast  Booking: Rooms should be booked by 31.3. with reference to 152846 / AHTEG.	Distance from the venue: 0,6 Km	Walking distance.
<b>5. Klaus K Hotel</b> Bulevardi 2-4 00120 Helsinki Tel. +358 (0)207 704 700 Fax. +358 (0)207 704 730 e-mail: <a href="mailto:rooms@klauskhotel.com">rooms@klauskhotel.com</a> Web site: <a href="http://www.klauskhotel.com">www.klauskhotel.com</a>	141 Euro/person incl. breakfast  Booking: Rooms should be booked by 27.3.09. with reference to AHTEG.	Distance from the venue: 0,3 Km	Walking distance.
<b>6. Rivoli Jardin</b> Kasarmikatu 40 00130 Helsinki Tel: +358 9 681 500 Fax: +358 96 56 988 e-mail: <a href="mailto:rivoli.jardin@rivoli.fi">rivoli.jardin@rivoli.fi</a> Web site: <a href="http://www.rivoli.fi">www.rivoli.fi</a>	Sunday-Thursday: 127 Euro/person, Friday-Saturday 117 Euro/person incl. breakfast  Booking: Rooms should be booked by 10.4. with reference to AHTEG/107698	Distance from the venue: 0,1 Km	Walking distance.

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