

**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**Distr.
GENERALUNEP/CBD/COP/7/INF/39
9 February 2004

ENGLISH ONLY

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO
THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY
Seventh meeting
Kuala Lumpur, 9 to 20 and 27 February 2004
Agenda items 19.11 and 20.3

**LETTER FROM THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES TO
THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY***Note by the Executive Secretary*

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, a letter from the International Union of Biological Sciences, informing the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity of two resolutions adopted by the 28th General Assembly of the International Union of Biological Sciences, referring to the programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity on communication, education and public awareness and on access and benefit-sharing..
3. The letter is being circulated in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

/...



International Union of Biological Sciences
Union Internationale des Sciences Biologiques

President: Prof. Motonori Hoshi (Japan)

SECRETARIAT

Past President: Prof. Marvalee H. Wake (USA)

Executive Director: Dr. Talal Younés

Vice Presidents: Prof. Braulio Dias (Brazil)

51, Boulevard de Montmorency

and Prof. Subahsh C. Lakhota (India)

75016 Paris, France

Secretary General: Prof. Christoph Scheidegger (Switzerland) Tel: +33 (0)1 45.25.00.09, Fax: +33 (0)1 45.25.20.29

Treasurer: Prof. Erwin Beck (Germany)

E-mail: tyounes@iubs.org; <http://www.iubs.org>

Dr. Hamdallah ZEDAN
Executive Director of the Secretariat
CBD
393 St Jacques Street, Office 300,
Montréal, Québec,
Canada H2Y 1N9

Fax: +1-514-288-6588

5 February, 2004

Dear Dr. Hamdallah Zedan,

The objective of this letter is first to inform you of two resolutions adopted by the 28th General Assembly of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) that refer to the Program of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). These resolutions are a concrete manifestation of the commitments of the IUBS to the CBD process.

The 28th General Assembly of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) and the International Conference “Biological Sciences, Development & Society,” held in Cairo, Egypt, from 18 to 23 of January 2004, included two workshops that refer to the Program of Work of the CBD. Each of these workshops resulted in the adoption of a resolution by the General Assembly.

The first of these resolutions was a result of Workshop I “CBD - Biodiversity Education & Public Awareness,” organized jointly with the CBD Secretariat and UNESCO, which decided that:

“The General Assembly requests the Executive Committee [of IUBS] to take note of the Report and, in particular, the recommendations of the joint CBD-UNESCO-IUBS Workshop held on 19 January 2004;”

“The General Assembly further requests the Executive Committee to engage in a process of dialogue and consultation with the Secretariat of the CBD, UNESCO, ICSU, and other relevant academic and research organizations and institutions in the IUBS community, to determine practical modalities for responding to the recommendations of the joint CBD-UNESCO-IUBS Workshop;”

“The General Assembly also requests the Executive Committee to marshal the necessary expertise and resources of appropriate institutions and organizations and to coordinate their respective inputs and contributions in addressing the identified research, training, education and public awareness priorities of the Programs of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity.”

The second of these resolutions was a result of Workshop III “Fostering International Access to Biodiversity Research, Conservation and Sustainable Use” which decided that:

/...

“Given concerns as to the conduct of research and the achievement of the objectives of both the IUBS and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the General Assembly directs the Executive Committee to establish a Working Group to explore the issues of access and benefit sharing; to initiate activities that enhance scientific input to the CBD process; to prepare the scientific community for compliance with evolving regulatory frameworks; and to facilitate the types of science that are particularly relevant to the CBD. The Working Group should explore such issues as: national and global regulations; exchanges of biological material (including paleontological material) and information; research guidelines; codes of conduct; and education of scientists and other stakeholders;”

“The General Assembly directs the Executive Committee to invite Ordinary Members (and their National Committees) and Scientific Members to consider on behalf of their countries, regions or disciplines: the manner in which the CBD is implemented; the nature and impacts of regulation; the awareness of issues of access and benefit sharing; and the education of scientists and other stakeholders. Ordinary and Scientific Members should be encouraged to initiate activities that strengthen the roles of science, and to engage with the policy-making and regulatory process;”

“The General Assembly directs the Executive Committee to approach the Conference of the Parties (CoP) of the CBD for the purposes of:

- * informing the CoP of current actions of the IUBS in respect to the CBD;
- * encouraging the CoP to include appropriate participation of the scientific community in the negotiations for the International Regime on Benefit Sharing; and
- * requesting the CoP to establish a consultative process on the best mechanisms for involving the broad scientific community in providing scientific input into the CBD process.”

The second objective of this letter is to request you to inform the participants of the 7th Conference of the Parties to the CBD of these decisions and commitments of the IUBS at the appropriate agenda item when the COP considers the issues referred to in the two IUBS resolutions (CEPA Agenda item 20.3; ABS Agenda item 19.11).

We would like to wish you success in the deliberations of the 7th Conference of the Parties and reassure you our commitment to the CBD process, particularly on the contribution of science to policy-making.

Yours sincerely,

Motonori Hoshi
President IUBS