



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



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7 August 2008

NOTIFICATION

Fifth Anniversary of the Entry into Force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety

Madam/Sir,

As you are aware, 11 September 2008 will mark the fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. I therefore have the honour to invite you to celebrate the anniversary, use the occasion to further promote awareness of the Protocol, and mobilise different stakeholders to support its implementation.

The theme of the anniversary is: “*The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety: Five years of global cooperation towards sustainable development*”. This theme was selected to highlight the spirit of consensus and cooperation that has characterised the Protocol process to date and to underline the contribution of the Protocol to the implementation of Agenda 21, the global programme of action on sustainable development, which was adopted by the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro.

A number of outreach materials related to the anniversary are being prepared and will be made available on the Secretariat’s website (www.cbd.int) in the coming few days. These will include a press release and a statement from the Secretary-General. I invite you to consult the website and disseminate the materials to your constituents, including the local media.

I also wish to invite you to organise activities to mark the anniversary and to keep the Secretariat informed of the outcomes of those activities, including copies of any official statements and media coverage of the anniversary. An indicative list of activities that could be undertaken to mark the anniversary is annexed hereto for your consideration.

I wish you a successful and memorable celebration of the fifth anniversary of the Protocol.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

To: Cartagena Protocol National Focal Points
Relevant Organizations



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United Nations
Environment Programme

413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800
Montreal, QC H2Y 1N9, Canada

Tel : +1 514 288 2220
Fax : +1 514 288 6588

<http://www.cbd.int>
secretariat@cbd.int

ANNEX

INDICATIVE LIST OF POSSIBLE NATIONAL ACTIVITIES TO MARK THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROTOCOL

- Issue a press release, incorporating some elements from the press release of the CBD Secretariat and the statement of the UN Secretary-General.
- Organise a news conference addressed, for example, by the Minister responsible for biosafety and/or other high-level officials.
- Set up a public exhibition of biosafety educational/awareness material at relevant events or public displays at strategic locations (e.g. office lobbies or libraries).
- Organise school essay and poster-painting competitions/colouring contests, slide presentations; and award prizes (e.g. t-shirts, pens, etc) to the winning students/classrooms.
- Prepare and pitch local newspapers to publish articles on the Protocol.
- Organise national workshops or panel discussions to share information and experiences on the implementation of the Protocol at the national level, including the development and implementation of national biosafety frameworks.
- Arrange on radio and TV panel discussions on the safe use of biotechnology, the role of the Protocol and the status of its implementation at the national level.
- Arrange to have a biosafety-related documentary broadcasted on national television.