



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

PRESS RELEASE

For use of the media only;
Not an official document.

**THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY HAILS THE
NOMINATION OF MS. MONIQUE BARBUT TO HEAD THE GLOBAL
ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**

Montreal—9 June 2006

The unanimous appointment by the Council of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) of Ms. Monique Barbut as its Chief Executive Officer and Chairman is most timely.

The appointment coincides with the beginning of a new phase for the GEF, characterized by a new financial-resource allocation system. It also comes on the day following the fourth replenishment of a financial mechanism, which is indispensable for this new phase. Moreover, it comes at the same time that the Convention on Biological Diversity is entering a new era of enhanced implementation of its three interdependent goals: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

The designation of Mrs. Monique Barbut as the head of the GEF is therefore a perfect opportunity to strengthen cooperation between the Convention and its financial mechanism.

"As the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, I am delighted by the unanimous decision of the Council of the GEF to appoint, for the first time, an outstanding and multi-talented woman with invaluable experience in the field of sustainable development, to head this prestigious institution. This decision augurs well for a new era of cooperation between the 'Convention on Life on Earth' and its financial mechanism", said Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif.

Information for Journalists:

The Convention on Biological Diversity is one of the most broadly-subscribed international environmental treaties in the world. Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro Brazil in 1992, it currently has 187 state parties and the European Community who have committed themselves to its three main goals: the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. The Secretariat is located in Montreal, Canada.

For more information, please contact Diana Nicholson at +1 514 287 8700; email: diana.nicholson@biodiv.org