



Convention on
Biological Diversity



2010 International Year of Biodiversity

COMMUNIQUÉ

Tenth Meeting of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions



The executive secretaries of the three Rio conventions meeting in New York (from the left, Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity)

Montreal, 30 September 2010 - The tenth meeting of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions was convened in New York on 23 September under the chairmanship of Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), at the margins of the high-level meeting on biodiversity of the United Nations General Assembly. The meeting in New York of this unique coordination mechanism of the three Rio conventions, which was established in 2002, provided an opportunity for the heads of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the



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United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to discuss emerging issues related to cooperation and enhanced collaboration in the context of the preparation of their respective conferences of the parties.

During the meeting, the executive secretaries discussed ways in which to support the efforts of Parties towards synergies, especially with regards to national planning processes. It agreed that joint activities between CBD and UNCCD with the support of UNFCCC would be promoted during the revision in 2011-2012 of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) as well as the alignment of national plans of action under UNCCD. In this regard, options would be explored to expand ongoing pilot National Adaptation Plan of Action – National Action Plan to include NBSAPs within the framework of ongoing capacity building support for NBSAP development and revision, thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Japan as well the Global Environment Facility

The meeting also considered joint outreach and awareness-raising activities including the Rio conventions' Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion, the International Year of Biodiversity, the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification and the upcoming International Year of Forests. Also, with the ongoing Rio+20 Earth Summit planning, the role of the secretariats in preparing and joining the celebrations remains an outstanding question. The need for the Rio conventions to be included in the Rio+20 Earth Summit has been recognized by the main actors in the planning process, and this recognition was welcomed.

Mr. Djoghlaif briefed the other executive secretaries on the upcoming discussions on a possible joint action plan between the Rio conventions. He noted that a survey distributed to CBD national focal points indicated broad support for a joint action plan – which was confirmed and expanded during the statements delivered by a number of Parties during the high-level event on biodiversity at the United Nations General Assembly. The role of the Joint Liaison Group in supporting the joint action plan process remains unclear and, as such, the group will await guidance from respective Parties with regards to next steps and the scale and scope of involvement.

Finally, Mr. Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, took the chairmanship for the eleventh meeting of the Joint Liaison Group, tentatively planned for January 2011. The next meeting will further consider the role and tasks for the Group based on the decisions of the upcoming conferences of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as well as past calls for action by the Joint Liaison Group.
