



**CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

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**CLOSING REMARKS BY**

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**CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**TO**

**THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**9-20 and 27 February 2004**

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

Mr. President,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Dear colleagues,

It has been a long three weeks for all concerned and I will therefore be brief. I would, however, like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the remarkable work that has been accomplished by this body over these three weeks, both at its seventh ordinary meeting and at its first meeting serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. You have managed to complete two extensive and detailed agendas and deserve congratulations for the thoroughness and seriousness with which you have approached your task.

I would like to congratulate you, in particular, Mr. President, for the leadership, guidance and kindness that you have shown, together with the Chairs of the Working Groups and the various contact groups that were established, as well as the other members of the Bureau.

Once again, may I express my appreciation to the host country for the arrangements made, the generous hospitality shown over the past three weeks and all the efforts they have made to make our stay in Malaysia both pleasant and productive.

I wish to reiterate my thanks to the outgoing Bureau and the President of the COP-6 for their guidance and support. I also wish to thank those donor countries that have supported the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in these meetings. Broad participation is essential to ensure the universality and authority of the Convention process and in the work under the Protocol.

Indeed, participation here in Kuala Lumpur was unprecedented; the highest ever for a meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The number of pledges made here in support of activities approved by the Conference of the Parties is further evidence of the interest and belief in the value and significance of the Convention and its Biosafety Protocol.

Overall, the results of these meetings have been impressive and will certainly mark a new stage in the life of the Convention: implementation.

This week's meeting of COP/MOP-1 built upon the solid foundation laid by ICCP. It also made considerable progress in addressing a number of key issues that are contentious but are fundamental to the operation of the Protocol, namely the handling, transport, packaging and identification provisions of Article 18, compliance and liability. We look forward with interest to the future developments on these topics.

At the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the programmes of work adopted on protected areas, technology transfer and mountain ecosystems are worthy products of intensive discussions seeking to balance scientific advice and extremely sensitive political considerations.

Likewise, the results of the reviews of the two established programmes of work – on marine and coastal biodiversity and inland waters—provide an authoritative statement of what the international community believes could and should be done to maintain the biodiversity of these two biomes.

And, by agreeing on a way forward on the difficult issue of an international regime on access and benefit sharing, the Conference of the Parties lived up to the expectations placed in the Convention process at the World Summit

I hope and believe that these and the other decisions adopted in Kuala Lumpur will be translated into the intense and wide-ranging action needed at all levels to achieve the 2010 target and to end the cycle of destruction of the natural world as a major contribution to poverty alleviation and overall sustainable development.

I would like here to once more thank and pay tribute to Ambassador Ting and her team for the extraordinary arrangements for the meetings as well as all those support staff who have helped make these meetings a success with their patience and dedication in the face of long hours and protracted negotiations – the interpreters

and translators, the other conference-servicing and technical staff have all contributed in their way to the outcome of these meetings. My appreciation also goes to the CBD Secretariat staff, those who are here and those who are in Montreal, for their professionalism, commitment and hard work.

But, most of all, I would like to thank you, distinguished delegates and colleagues, for your commitment to the Convention and your perseverance throughout the long negotiations.

You can move on with confidence that a job has been well done and look forward to future meetings with a renewed sense of hope and purpose.

For the moment, I would wish those of you who are leaving Kuala Lumpur a safe journey home and look forward to seeing you all again in the future.

Thank you for your attention.