



Secretariat of the  
**Convention on Biological Diversity**

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International Day for Biological Diversity



Biodiversity and Climate Change

**STATEMENT**

By

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

At the

**OPENING CEREMONY**

**41ST MEETING OF THE CHAIRMEN/  
COORDINATORS OF THE GROUP OF 77  
CHAPTERS**

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## **HE Ambassador Munir Akram the Chairman of the Group of 77**

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Group of 77 is the largest intergovernmental organization of developing states in the United Nations that provides the means for the developing countries to articulate and promote their collective economic interests and promote South-South cooperation for development. Since its establishment in 1964, with Solidarity and unity as the underlying features of its functioning, this Group has made a unique contribution to promoting multilateral cooperation for development. The Group of 77 has always attached the highest importance to the promotion of South-South cooperation as a means for the exchange of experience and the dissemination of best practices among its members.

A farmer in Asia increases his income from growing rattan with help from a network of researchers, inventors, marketing and other experts spread across 50 developing countries. Thousands of agricultural experts from Asia work in African countries to help increase food production and improve food security. Such examples are abound in recent times consolidating the foundation of South-South cooperation.

South-South Cooperation has emerged as a powerful tool to enhance international cooperation for achieving sustainable development and in this era of rapid globalization the importance of such cooperation cannot be overemphasized. With greater cooperation, the partnerships among the countries of the South, complemented by the North can help increase the economic potential of developing world, for the benefit of whole world. In fact, one of the most effective structures for development assistance is triangular cooperation mechanisms involving both developed and developing countries. Very often, the most cost effective and efficient technology transfer is done between developing countries facing similar challenges and conditions.

Over the years, the G-77 has achieved groundbreaking results in terms of equitable economic cooperation and trade, as outlined in the Caracas Plan of Action. More recently, attention has been drawn to one of the underlying factors for economic development: the diversity of life on Earth. The overwhelming majority of the biodiversity of our planet is located in developing countries. Often, these countries, which are economically poor, are the richest in terms of biodiversity. However, this wealth is disappearing at a frightening pace, undermining the potential for sustained development of the whole planet.

Biodiversity is the key to development of developing countries and achievements in the sphere of South-South cooperation and biodiversity will further enable developing countries to achieve the Millennium Goals. Parties to the Convention have therefore agreed to work towards a very ambitious goal: to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010, in what we call the 2010 biodiversity target. This challenge will only be met if, in addition to the more traditional North-South cooperation, Parties also engage in concerted efforts through South-South cooperation, through the Group of 77.

To this end the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological diversity is honoured to enter into partnership with the Group of 77 to develop a multi-year plan of action on South-South cooperation on biodiversity. In close cooperation with the previous chair of G77, South Africa, and with the Secretariat of the G77, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity convened a Brainstorming Meeting on South-South cooperation on Biodiversity in Montreal from 6-8 November 2006. The 24 experts who participated in this Brainstorming Meeting laid the groundwork for a plan of action to enhance the capacity of developing countries. The plan of action will include:

- The implementation of the three objectives of the Convention (conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources) and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
- The achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target to significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss, requiring provisions for additional financial and technical resources to developing countries;
- The achievement of goals 1 and 7 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

At the request of the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), a meeting between the secretariats of organizations responsible for three major hydrological and forest basins of the world was held also during this Brainstorming Meeting with a view of exchanging experiences between the Amazon basin, the Congo basin and the Heart of Borneo.

For developing the plan of action, an open-ended expert meeting will be held in March 2008. The plan of action on South-South cooperation will be submitted for consideration and adoption by the ninth meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to take place in Bonn, Germany in May 2008.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment called for unprecedented efforts to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target. The 4,000 participants, including 95 ministers, who attended the eight meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Curitiba in March 2006, responded to this call for urgent action by launching a new era of enhanced phase of implementation of the three objectives of the Convention. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has also responded to this call by recommending to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session the integration of the 2010 biodiversity target into the Millennium Development Goals. The United Nations General Assembly also responded to this call in adopting in December last year its decision proclaiming 2010 as the International Year on Biodiversity.

I strongly believe that, development and implementation of a multi-year plan of action on South-South Cooperation on biodiversity, will significantly contribute to the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target; to South-South solidarity for safeguarding

life on the planet and the well-being of its 6 billion people, and to the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan on Technological Support and Capacity-building. I look forward to working with G77 on South-South cooperation on biodiversity for sustainable development of our planet.

I thank you for your kind attention