

Memorandum of Understanding

between

The Secretariat of the
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Geneva)

and

The Secretariat of the
Convention on Biological Diversity (Montreal)

Noting the collaboration between the Secretariats of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in the field of the economics of biodiversity, in particular regarding the role of economic instruments and incentive measures for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and the equitable sharing of benefits of biological resources,

Recalling also that the "Midrand Declaration" and "A Partnership for Growth and Development" contain references to UNCTAD's further work in the area of multilateral environmental agreements and positive measures,

Recognizing the crucial role of biodiversity economics as an especially challenging subject for the evaluation of benefits derived from biological resources, and

Noting in this regard UNCTAD's BIOTRADE Initiative, which is considered "as a contribution in the area of economic valuation and economic incentive measures for promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, as a relevant development in this regard", as is said in the Report of the Secretary General of the United Nations to the fifth Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD),

Noting also that the CSD decision 4/1 (on Trade, environment and sustainable development), paragraph 9 welcomed UNCTAD's BIOTRADE Initiative as a collaborative effort with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and interested UN agencies,

Recalling that the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted decision III/18 on incentive measures, under which the Convention's Executive Secretary is requested to take into consideration relevant work under way in other fora, such as UNCTAD and the OECD,

Recalling further COP decision III/15 on access to genetic resources, which urges the Convention's Executive Secretary to coordinate closely with FAO, UNCTAD and other organisations working on access to genetic resources, to ensure complementarity of efforts,

Noting that the CSD 5, in the section on Biodiversity, paragraph 56 (l) stressed the urgent need to provide incentive measures at national, regional and international levels to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, by enhancing developing countries' capabilities to compete

in the emerging market for biological resources, while improving the functioning of this market.

Aware that both Secretariats are prepared to collaborate with each other and to promote co-operation and coordination with other relevant convention Secretariats;

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, hereinafter referred to as "the Secretariats", agree as follows:

Article 1. Institutional cooperation

- a. The Secretariats will invite each other to their relevant meetings.
- b. The Secretariats will inform their respective Member States/Contracting Parties of their co-operative activities, and will seek to promote consultation and cooperation between their Member States/Contracting Parties.

Article 2. Exchange of information and experience

- a. The Secretariats will institute procedures for regular exchange of information on their respective activities related to biodiversity.
- b. The Secretariats will establish methods for exchanging data on the economics of biodiversity, in particular in the areas of incentive measures and access to genetic resources. In this regard, the UNCTAD Secretariat will submit to the clearing-house mechanism of the CBD a thematic node covering the activities, documentation and data of the BIOTRADE Initiative.
- c. The Secretariats will cooperate, where relevant and feasible, in preparing documentation.

Article 3. Joint action for conservation and sustainable development

- a. The Secretariats will inform their governing bodies of their decision to work together on incentive measures and access to genetic resources as identified by COP decision III/18 and COP decision III/15 respectively.
- b. The Secretariats will endeavour to co-ordinate their activities in research, training and public awareness activities, in particular with regard to incentive measures at national, regional and international levels to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and to consider means to enhance developing countries' capabilities to compete in the emerging market for biological resources, while improving the functioning of this market (in line with CSD 5 in the chapter on Biodiversity, paragraph 66(l)).

Article 4. Reporting

The UNCTAD Secretariat agrees to make submissions on the activities it has undertaken to

support the implementation of the Convention on a regular basis to meetings of the Conference of the Parties and other relevant meetings of the Convention in line with COP decision III/21. The UNCTAD Secretariat agrees also that such submissions be made a standing item of the agenda of the COP.

Article 5. Implementation, Review, Amendment and Termination

This memorandum will be implemented in accordance with the respective administrative procedures and practices and the budgetary and other resources of CBD and UNCTAD.

This memorandum may be reviewed and amended in writing at the request of either party and may be terminated by either party giving a three months written notice.



Calestous Juma

Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological
Diversity

24/10/97



Rubens Ricupero

Secretary General
United Nations
Conference on Trade and
Development

24/10/97

