Convention on Biological Diversity

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

and

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

Recalling the mandate of the United Nations Regional Commissions and their unique contribution in promoting the regional approach for achieving sustainable development;

Considering that the Regional Commissions play a key role in assisting member states in the development and implementation of policies to promote sustainable development;

Further considering that the UNECE initiates and participates in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic development and integration of Europe, for raising the level of European economic activity, and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the European countries both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

Recalling that the CBD has as its objectives the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources;

Recalling further the commitment adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to significantly reduce the current rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 reiterated by the 154 Heads of State and Government attending the 2005 World Review summit of the United Nations General Assembly and that a revised strategic plan (2011-2020) for the Convention on Biological Diversity will be adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Nagoya in October 2010;

Recognizing the importance and relevance of the work of the UNECE environmental performance reviews and in timber and forestry;

Further recognizing that the UNECE can contribute to the implementation of the Convention, within its mandates and resources;

Being eager to further strengthen their collaboration;

Have reached the following understanding:

Article 1

1.1 The UNECE and the CBD Secretariat will keep each other informed of their respective regional and subregional activities related to the provisions of the CBD and programmes of the ECE through formal and informal exchanges of information.

1.2. The UNECE and the CBD Secretariat will strive to use their expertise in support of each other's mandates in areas of mutual interest.

Article 2

2.1 The UNECE and the CBD Secretariat will convene periodic consultations to review their cooperation and to discuss new opportunities. The signatories agree to hold such consultations periodically as required and not less than once every two years.

2.2 The ECE and the CBD Secretariat agree to designate responsible units for the activities under this Memorandum:

(a) For the CBD Secretariat: Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters (STTM) Division
(b) For the UNECE: Timber and Forestry Section

Article 3

3.1 Joint activities under the Memorandum are subject to the availability of funding for that purpose.

Article 4

4.1 This Memorandum will enter into effect upon signature by the Executive Secretary of the UNECE and the Executive Secretary of the CBD and shall be valid for a period of five years from the date of signature.

4.2 The Memorandum may be amended by mutual written consent of the signatories.

4.3 The Memorandum may be terminated by either signatory on six months notice in writing.

Signed on 26 October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan.

For the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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Ján Kubiš
Executive Secretary
United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe

For the Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity

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Ahmed Djoghlaf
Executive Secretary
Convention on Biological Diversity