



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**between**

**The United Nations Regional Economic and Social Commissions**

**and**

**The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

The United Nations Regional Economic and Social Commissions and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity:

*Recalling* the mandate of the United Nations Regional Economic and Social Commissions (hereafter referred to as 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 conducting economic analyses and in assisting Member States in the development and implementation of policies to promote sustainable development;

Recalling that the Convention on Biological Diversity 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;

*Recognizing* that the Regional Commissions can contribute to the implementation of the Convention, within their respective mandates and in accordance with relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

*Being eager* to further strengthen their collaboration in response to the enhanced implementation phase of the Convention and in order to meet the challenges of the 2010 biodiversity target, as well as regional implementation of the relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

***Have agreed as follows:***

## *Article I*

### **Areas of Cooperation**

1. The Regional Commissions and the CBD Secretariat will cooperate with a view to:
  - a. Integrating the three objectives of the CBD into relevant regional activities and processes;
  - b. Assisting Parties in mainstreaming biodiversity into economic sectors including through poverty reduction strategy papers and equivalent instruments;
  - c. Providing, as appropriate, technical assistance to the Parties for the implementation of their commitments under the CBD;
  - d. Cooperating in the preparation of the regional processes towards the sessions of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) when CBD issues are topics of the two-year cycle of work;
  - e. Assisting in the promotion of public awareness and outreach, including the celebration of International Biodiversity Day and the International Year on Biodiversity;
  - f. Providing support for the convening of CBD meetings and in particular the regional and sub-regional meetings;
  - g. Developing approaches to promote and facilitate the integration of biodiversity considerations into existing sectoral and cross-sectoral policies and programmes, making use, as appropriate, of relevant tools and guidelines developed under the Convention;
  - h. Assisting in the preparation and implementation of the CBD programme on South-South cooperation;
  - i. Assessing the emerging issues related to the interface between trade, biodiversity and intellectual property rights;
  - j. Facilitating Parties to jointly undertake regional and subregional responses to the goals and mandates of the CBD;
  - k. Facilitating regional and subregional cooperation to assist the developing Parties in improving institutional, scientific and human capacity for the effective implementation of the CBD.

## ***Article 2***

### **Modalities of Cooperation**

1. The Regional Commissions 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 Commissions through formal and informal exchanges of information.
2. The Regional Commissions and the CBD Secretariat will collaborate in the implementation of their respective programmes and activities, which are defined in the Areas of Cooperation.
3. Detailed modalities of cooperation will be defined in the multi-year work plan

## ***Article 3***

A multi-year work plan between each individual Regional Commission and the CBD Secretariat will be prepared in the context of the agreed activities covered by the present agreement. Such work plans, upon finalization, will constitute annexes to the Memorandum.

## ***Article 4***

### **Implementation of the MoU**

1. The Regional Commissions and the Secretariat recognize that it is important to convene periodic consultations organized by the designated persons as specified in paragraph 2 below to review progress made in the implementation of the multi-year work plan as well as to discuss new challenges, opportunities and problems. The Parties agree to hold such consultations periodically as required and not less than once every two years.
2. The Regional Commissions and the CBD Secretariat agree to designate as responsible units for the activities under this Memorandum:
  - (a) for CDB Secretariat: Executive Secretary, CBD Secretariat
  - (b) for ESCAP: Chief, Environment and Sustainable Development Division
  - (c) for ECA: Director, Food Security and Sustainable Development
  - (d) for ECLAC: Chief, Division of Sustainable Development and Human Settlements
  - (e) for ESCWA: Chief, Sustainable Development and Productivity Division

## ***Article 5***

### **Financial Aspects**

1. Joint activities under the Memorandum are subject to the availability of funding for that purpose.
2. The Parties will undertake concerted fundraising initiatives for the implementation of activities under the Memorandum.


## ***Article 6***

### **Entry into Force**

1. This Memorandum will enter into force upon signature by the Executive Secretaries of the Regional Commissions and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and shall be valid for a period of five years after the date of signature by all Parties.
2. The Memorandum may be amended by mutual written consent of the Parties.
3. The Memorandum may be terminated by any Party on six months notice in writing.

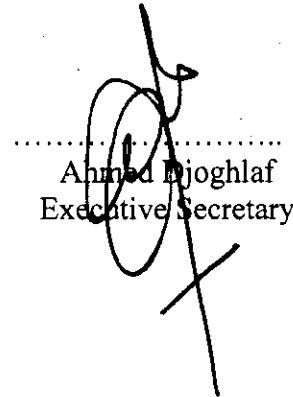
Signed this, 25 October 2007, in the UN Headquarters, New York

**For the Regional Commissions  
of the United Nations**

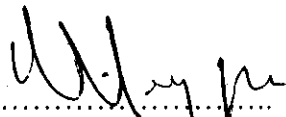


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Abdoulie Janneh  
USG and Executive Secretary,  
Economic Commission for Africa  
(ECA) and Current Coordinator of  
the Regional Commissions

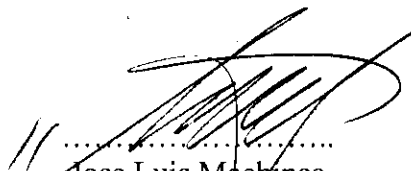
**For the Secretariat for the Convention  
on Biological Diversity**



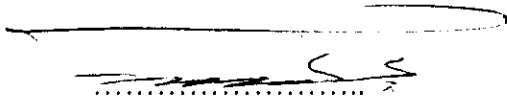
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Ahmed Djoghla  
Executive Secretary



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Noeleen Heyzer  
USG and Executive Secretary  
Economic and Social Commission for  
Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)



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Jose Luis Machinea  
USG and Executive Secretary  
Economic Commission for Latin  
America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)



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Bader Al-Dafa  
USG and Executive Secretary  
Economic and Social Commission for  
Western Asia (ESCWA)