



Convention on Biological Diversity

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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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Agenda item 26

DECISION ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AT ITS SEVENTH MEETING

VII/32. *The programme of work of the Convention and the Millennium Development Goals*

The Conference of the Parties,

Recognizing that world leaders at the Millennium Summit have established the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the focus of global efforts to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women, and that the Millennium Development Goals agenda provides the framework for the entire United Nations system to work coherently toward these common ends,

Welcoming the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and in particular its recognition of the critical and essential role played by biodiversity in sustainable development, poverty eradication, human well-being and the livelihood and cultural integrity of people,

Noting that achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular goal 1 (Combating poverty and hunger), Goal 6 (Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases), and goal 7 (Ensuring environmental sustainability) are dependent on the effective 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 that the Convention on Biological Diversity is the key international instrument for the integration of biodiversity-related issues into the Millennium Development Agenda,

Concerned that if development activities are not undertaken in a manner consistent with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, they may at the same time further degrade biological diversity and undermine sustainability and hence limit achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,

Noting the linkage between biodiversity, food and nutrition and the need to enhance sustainable use of biodiversity to combat hunger and malnutrition, and thereby contribute to target 2 of goal 1 of the

Millennium Development Goals (To halve between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger),

1. *Urges* Parties, Governments, international financial institutions, donors, and relevant intergovernmental organizations, as a contribution towards the Millennium Development Goals, to implement development activities in ways that are consistent with, and do not compromise, the achievement of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2010 target, including by improving environmental policies in relevant development agencies and sectors such as through integrating concerns relating to biodiversity and the Millennium Development Goals more directly into environmental impact assessments, strategic environmental assessments and other such tools, including at the national level through the national strategies for sustainable and the poverty reduction strategies and programmes.

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary:

(a) To work closely with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Millennium Project of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and others to find ways to more effectively communicate the importance of biodiversity in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and to identify and communicate the relationship between biodiversity and human development targets at all levels;

(b) To explore with the Secretary General of the United Nations, the opportunity to establish the 2010 target as an interim milestone in achieving the Millennium Development Goal 7 of ensuring environmental sustainability by 2015; and

(c) To work closely with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Millennium Project of the Secretary General of the United Nations and others to find ways to use the 2010 targets and indicators to help achieve target 9 (to “reverse the loss of environmental resources”) of Millennium Development Goal 7 (to “ensure environmental sustainability”), and the other relevant Millennium Development goals, in particular Goal 1 to halve poverty and hunger, and the health-related goals;

(d) To continue to work together with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and with other organizations, and to continue to represent the Convention at sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development in order that biodiversity considerations are fully integrated into the work of the cycle of Commission at the twelfth session of the Commission;

3. *Invites* Parties to promote the integration of the relevant Millennium Development Goals into the implementation of the programmes of work of the Convention;

4. *Urges* Parties to report on their actions at the national level to link efforts to achieve relevant Millennium Development Goals and the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity in their next national report;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, to take this into account when revising the format for national reports;

6. *Noting with appreciation* the ongoing initiatives of the Executive Secretary, *requests* the Executive Secretary to publish the full results of the study on “The programme of work of the Convention and the Millennium Development Goals”, summarized in UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20/Add.1, and

to promote further the importance of biodiversity to sustainable development, livelihoods, food security, poverty reduction and eradication in all relevant forums and using a variety of appropriate media including, *inter alia*, making full use of the clearing-house mechanism and formalizing relevant activities under the programme of work for implementation and outreach, including communication education and public awareness;

7. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute, and taking into account ongoing work, to undertake the necessary consultations and bring forward options for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting for a cross-cutting initiative on biodiversity for food and nutrition within the existing programme of work on agricultural biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to work together with relevant organizations, in order to strengthen existing initiatives on food and nutrition, enhance synergies and fully integrate biodiversity concerns into their work, with a view to the achievement of target 2 of Millennium Development Goal 1 and other relevant Millennium Development Goals.
