



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



MESSAGE

Not an official document

From Mr. Wolfgang Koehler
President of Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity serving as the
Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
(COP-MOP)

on

The Fifth Anniversary of the Entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,
11 September 2008

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today marks the fifth anniversary of the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. This landmark event reminds all of us – Parties, governments and other stakeholders –, of our responsibility to ensure the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on biological diversity. It is also an opportunity for us to celebrate our collective accomplishments towards the implementation of the Protocol and to share experiences and lessons learned so far.

Over the last five years, the world community has, in operationalizing the Protocol at the global and national levels, made history and has moved further forward towards achieving sustainable development.

From the negotiations of this instrument, at its entry into force on 11 September 2003, up to the present day, the Protocol has enjoyed tremendous support through joint collaboration of different stakeholders. Many governments and organizations have worked together to develop legal, administrative and other measures to implement the Protocol. The Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) and the several national biosafety frameworks are but some of the many tools that have been developed to facilitate the implementation process.

At the last meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, the largest ever gathering under the Protocol process, which took place in May this year in Bonn, Germany, we made yet another historical step forward and agreed to work towards a regime on liability and redress for potential damage caused from the transboundary movements of living modified organisms. Let us use this anniversary to recommit ourselves to finalise the negotiations with a view to adopting the regime at our next meeting of the Parties in Nagoya, Japan. Let us also use this historic occasion to re-double our efforts to ensure that all the other decisions taken under the Protocol are implemented fully.



ONE NATURE • ONE WORLD • OUR FUTURE
COP 9 MOP 4 Bonn Germany 2008



United Nations
Environment Programme

413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800
Montreal, QC H2Y 1N9, Canada

Tel : +1 514 288 2220
Fax : +1 514 288 6588

<http://www.cbd.int>
secretariat@cbd.int

As Parties, governments and stakeholders, we should uphold the spirit of cooperation that has underpinned the Protocol process to date and continue to collaborate actively in sustaining the momentum towards full implementation of the Protocol. We should join forces to develop the necessary capacities and mobilize adequate financial, technical and other resources for the effective implementation of the Protocol.

As the current President of the governing body of the Protocol, I take this opportunity to thank all Parties, governments and other stakeholders for their continued efforts in implementing the Protocol. I urge all of you to continue making steady progress towards full implementation of the Protocol as we march towards achieving sustainable development.

I wish you successful celebrations of the fifth anniversary.