



## CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE  
OF THE PARTIES  
Montreal, 7 October 2007

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY HELD IN MONTREAL ON 7 OCTOBER 2007

#### INTRODUCTION

1. The third meeting of the COP-8 Bureau was held on 7 October 2007 at the Headquarters of the Secretariat in Montreal. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Fernando Coimbra of the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil, representing the President of eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The following Bureau members attended the meeting:

Mr. Karma Nyedrup (Bhutan)  
Mr. Abdul Hakim Aulayah (Yemen)  
Dr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine)  
Ms. Andrea Stefan (Croatia)  
Mrs. Mary Fosi Mbantenkhu (Cameroon)  
Mr. Robert McLean (Canada)  
Mr. José Luís Herranz (Spain)  
Mr. Fernando Perez Egert (Chile)

2. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Jochen Flasbarth of Germany (as host of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties), Mr. Fernando Casas, and Mr. Timothy Hodges, Co-Chairs of Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, as well as the Executive Secretary of the Convention, Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif.

#### ITEM 1 OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The meeting was opened by Mr. Coimbra on behalf of the President of the Conference of the Parties, Her Excellency Ms. Marina Silva, Minister of Environment of Brazil. The Chair welcomed Bureau members and said that Brazil was honoured to chair the Bureau in light of the agenda of important meetings in the coming months. He emphasized that the main purpose of the meeting was to prepare for the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing.

4. The Executive Secretary welcomed the Bureau members for their first meeting at the headquarters of the secretariat and introduced Ms. Dominique Kayser who would henceforth act as Secretary of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

#### ITEM 2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Bureau adopted the following agenda as proposed by the Executive Secretary following consultation with the Presidency:

1. Opening of the meeting.

2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing.
4. Preparations for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
5. Other matters.
6. Closure of the meeting.

### **ITEM 3 SECOND MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING**

6. Officers: It was agreed to adhere to the practice whereby the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties serves as the Bureau of the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention. As decided at the previous meeting of the Bureau, Ms. Mary Fosi Mbantekhu of Cameroon would act as Rapporteur for the meeting.

7. The Co-chairs then briefed the Bureau on their strategy for the conduct the meeting. They had consulted extensively with the regional groups and Parties in recent months. Their approach to WGABS-5 and WGABS-6 had received a favourable response. They were therefore confident that there would be no problem with the proposed agenda for the upcoming meeting. The Chair supported this view and suggested that the Bureau should recommend the adoption of the agenda as proposed by the Co-chairs and which the Bureau had already approved. It was so decided.

8. With regard to the organization of work, the Co-chairs recalled that they viewed both meetings as one single session of 10 working days. Some items would be discussed in both meetings while others would be discussed in only one meeting. There were obvious linkages between items but they expected delegates would offer "options" which would be the foundation of future progress. As regards the basis for the work, they would adhere strictly to decision VIII/4 A. They asked for the advice of the Bureau regarding opening statements. They were concerned to avoid general statements and would prefer that statements be made by regional groups with regard to each item. They also intended to start on time.

9. The Co-chairs reiterated the principles of openness and predictability which would guide their action. They intended to work in plenary. However, given the constraints of time, they might establish contact groups if necessary. They invited the advice of Bureau members with regard to possible co-chairs of contact groups. The Co-chairs intended to allocate little time the issue of indicators.

10. They further indicated that they expected to prepare a consolidated report at the end COP-6 that would be submitted to COP-9. The Co-chairs emphasized that they remained available for informal consultations throughout the week.

11. The Co-chairs sought the advice of the Bureau regarding the annex to decision VIII/4, the so-called "Granada text". There were strong views regarding this document among the Parties. In their view, the only way to address this issue was to adhere strictly to the text of the decision. They were confident that this sensitive issue could be dealt with and appealed to Bureau members for their support to ensure that all regions would be flexible. The representative of the President agreed that it was important to implement - and not attempt to interpret - decision VIII/4 A. The representative of Germany said that his country wanted positive results at COP-9 and it was therefore important to make progress at WGABS-5 and 6. The Granada text was important because it brought together the full spectrum of views.

12. It was agreed that the Bureau should meet daily to take stock of progress and provide guidance to the Co-chairs. Such meetings would start promptly as 6:00 pm and would be brief.

**ITEM 4 PREPARATIONS FOR THE NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES**

13. The representative of Germany briefed the Bureau on the preparations for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. He presented the logo of COP-9, the city of Bonn, as well as the main site of COP-9 (Hotel Maritim and several adjacent governmental buildings). The High Level Segment (HLS) would be held at the World Conference Center Bonn (WCCB), the former seat of the German Parliament.

14. It was the intention of the host country to involve Ministers in solving pending issues, thus it would be held from Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 May 2007. The HLS would be opened by Minister Gabriel. In addition, the German Chancellor, Ms. Angela Merkel would address the HLS in the afternoon of 29 May. Other heads of states and governments will also be invited. A voluntary commitment session was also planned, as well as messages from major stakeholders including Mayors, Youth and Business. On Friday, 30 May, the Federal President, Dr. Horst Kohler, would host a reception. The Bureau commended Germany for the excellent preparations made in preparing for COP-9 including its High Level Segment.

**ITEM 5 OTHER MATTERS**

15. Under this item, the Chair as well as the Bureau representative from GRULAC, raised concerns about the lack of adequate geographical representation. They noted that out of 60 sponsored delegates, only 13 or 22% were from GRULAC, of which 3 were from Latin America and 10 from the Caribbean. The representative of Cameroon asked what had transpired of efforts by the Secretariat to persuade UNEP to waive the 13 % administrative charge taken by UNEP from contributions to the BZ Trust Fund (Voluntary Fund for the Participation).

16. The Executive Secretary thanked the donors who had provided an increase of 85% over contributions in 2004-2005 which allowed the participation of 60 eligible countries. He stated that this was a clear message of the 10 donors in support to the ABS negotiation. He explained that the Secretariat was guided by the Interim travel policy adopted by the Bureau at its meeting held in Brasilia on 5 December 2006 and as a result, priority was given to LDCs and SIDS. In response to the question raised by Cameroon, the Executive Secretary indicated that immediately after the Bureau meeting held in Paris in July 2007, two letters were sent to the Executive Director of UNEP on 6 and 9 July 2007 conveying the views of the Bureau. On 20 September 2007, a letter was also sent to the Executive Director requesting a waiver of the 13% administrative charge on the financial contribution received for the ABS meeting which could have allowed the secretariat to offer financial support to eight additional eligible countries.

17. The Chair proposed that the policy be adjusted to ensure an adequate geographical representation at CBD meetings while taking into account the specific needs of LDCs and SIDS. The Chair was also of the view that the criteria of "first come first served" is inadequate and needs to be revised. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised policy along those lines and to submit it to the Bureau for its consideration at the 14 October 2007 Bureau meeting. It was agreed that the Secretariat will circulate the draft early in advance of the meeting.

**ITEM 6 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

18. In closing the meeting, the representative of the President thanked Bureau members for their cooperation and looked forward to their support throughout the week to ensure a smooth and efficient meeting.

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