

Annex II

**THE HAGUE MINISTERIAL DECLARATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO
THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

We, the Ministers responsible for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, having met in The Hague, The Netherlands, on 17 and 18 April 2002, on the occasion of the sixth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

1. *Acknowledging* the critical importance of biodiversity – the variability among living organisms from all sources and the ecological complexes of which they are a part, including diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems – that has made earth a uniquely habitable place for humans and that is essential to our planet and our well-being;
2. *Acknowledging* further that biological diversity is being destroyed by human activities at unprecedented rates and that the Convention on Biological Diversity is the foremost instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, as well as for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, and that therefore clear objectives and goals to halt and reverse this trend have to be set;
3. *Noting* the shift in emphasis within the Convention process from policy development to implementation and the need to put equal weight on the three objectives of the Convention;
4. *Recognising* the need for clear targets and timetables as follow-up to the adoption of the Strategic Plan and to put mechanisms in place to reach these targets and review progress in the implementation of the Convention's work programmes;
5. *Recognizing* that biodiversity underpins sustainable development in many ways; poverty eradication, food security, provision of fresh water, soil conservation and human health all depend directly upon maintaining and using the world's biological diversity and therefore sustainable development cannot be achieved without the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
6. *Reconfirming* our commitment to the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and *underline* the need to guide our actions based on ethical principles of implementation of the Convention towards the broad goal of sustainable development, based on integration of economic, social and environmental matters. *We commit* ourselves to move from dialogue to action;
7. *Emphasizing* the progress made in the last decade in translating the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity into national and international policies and concrete activities, including through:
 - National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans in more than one hundred countries;
 - The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;
 - The Bonn guidelines on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization;
 - The development and use with respect to all ecosystems of key concepts, such as the ecosystem approach;

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- The work programme on the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
 - Guiding principles on invasive alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species;
 - Work programmes on forest biological diversity, on dry and sub-humid land, inland water ecosystems, marine and coastal ecosystems, agrobiodiversity and on cross-cutting issues;
 - Increasing awareness that biodiversity is critical for the provision of goods and services;
 - Clearing-house mechanisms established at the Secretariat and at national levels to promote technical and scientific cooperation and information exchange.
8. *We stress* the importance of the contribution of the Convention on Biological Diversity to the implementation of Agenda 21 and emphasize that at the same time Agenda 21 is indispensable for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
9. *We reconfirm* our commitment to consider the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources as essential for achieving sustainable development and contributing to poverty eradication. We urge the promotion of synergies between the Convention on Biological Diversity and related conventions and the exchange of experiences and lessons learned between countries and regions and all relevant stakeholders.
10. *We regret*, however, that despite the efforts of governments and relevant stakeholders the Global Biodiversity Outlook indicates that biodiversity continues to be destroyed by human activities. We underline the statement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations: “Therefore we must face up to an inescapable reality: the challenges of sustainability simply overwhelm the adequacy of our responses. With some honourable exceptions, our responses are too few, too little and too late.”
11. *We acknowledge* that life is on the line and therefore resolve to strengthen our efforts to put in place measures to halt biodiversity loss, which is taking place at an alarming rate, at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels by the year 2010.
12. *We commit* to developing and revising, as appropriate, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans by the time of the seventh Conference of Parties is held.
13. *We reconfirm* the commitment to halting deforestation and the loss of forest biodiversity and ensuring the sustainable use of timber and non-timber resources and we commit ourselves to the full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity’s expanded action-oriented work programme on all types of forest biological diversity in close cooperation with the United Nations Forum on Forests, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other forest-related processes and conventions, and with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders.
14. *We resolve* to develop and implement effective and innovative mechanisms that guarantee the equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the sustainable use of genetic resources, including the valuation and economic retribution of global environmental services, acknowledging that the

rates of destruction of biological diversity will remain very high unless the countries and their peoples, who are custodians of this natural wealth, benefit from it.

15. *We call upon* the World Summit on Sustainable Development to:

- (a) *Reaffirm that* the Convention on Biological Diversity is the principal international legal instrument for the coordination, consolidation and strengthening of efforts undertaken through the various regional, subregional and international biodiversity-related agreements and programmes;
- (b) *Reaffirm that* States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;
- (c) *Recognize* the strong links between biodiversity and other policy fields in terms of policy development and implementation and in particular promote:
 - The strong interlinkages between the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and sustainable development, poverty eradication and natural disaster management;
 - The integration of biodiversity objectives into social and economic policies, programmes and actions, in particular when addressing the interface of sustainable development with trade and financial agreements;
 - Synergy and mutual supportiveness between the Convention on Biological Diversity and international trade-related agreements and policies with a view to attaining the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity in a more concrete manner, in particular with the WTO, including the Doha Agreement, and therefore the proper recognition and status of the Convention on Biological Diversity within the relevant WTO bodies ;
 - Effective cooperation and coordination among biodiversity-related Conventions and other bodies and processes in areas of mutual interest, in particular with the the United Nations Forum on Forests, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, The Convention on Migratory Species and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and at regional, sub-regional and global level;
 - Enhanced coordination, synergies and partnerships at the national, regional and the sub-regional levels;
 - The ecosystem approach as one of the key concepts for integrated management of land, water and living resources.
- (d) *Reconfirm* the commitment to have instruments in place to stop and reverse the current alarming biodiversity loss at the global, regional, sub-regional and national levels by the year 2010;

- (e) *Recognize* the need for the intensification of basic surveys and research on biological diversity to enhance our scientific knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystems;
- (f) *Encourage* governments to take appropriate policy measures to conserve and restore important ecosystems, in particular wetlands including shallow coastal water areas and coral reefs, as well as mountain and arctic ecosystems;
- (g) *Urge* all States to ratify and fully implement the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the biodiversity-related agreements, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and to promote a coherent approach in their implementation at the national, regional and international levels and welcome and support the results of the process on International Environmental Governance;
- (h) *Welcome* the positive outcome of the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002 as reflected in the Monterrey Consensus, which represents a crucial step towards achieving the goals of poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, and promotion of sustainable development;
- (i) *Urge* developed countries that have not done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0,7 per cent of Gross National Product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0,15 to 0,20 per cent of GNP to least developed countries;
- (j) *Urge* developed countries to achieve a significant replenishment of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF);
- (k) *Reaffirm* the need for capacity building, the facilitation of the transfer of environmentally sound technology and the provision of adequate and predictable financial resources and the promotion and protection of knowledge, including traditional knowledge, and sound science for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and the small island developing States amongst them, and countries with economies in transition to fully implement the Convention on Biological Diversity as an essential component for achieving sustainable development;
- (l) *Create and strengthen* partnerships at different levels with public and private partners in the different regions in all relevant sectors, including the banking and business community, international organisations and institutions to promote capacity building, the transfer of environmentally sound technology, the provision of adequate financial resources and the provision of knowledge, including provisions for preserving and maintaining traditional knowledge and sound science for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and to promote investments in biodiversity activities, especially in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and the Small Island Developing States amongst them and the countries with economies in transition. Encourage parties and stakeholders to propose such partnerships as Type II outcome to the WSSD;
- (m) *Urge* governments to strengthen their efforts to develop and implement educational and capacity-building programmes, especially in developing countries, in particular the least developed and the small island developing States amongst them and countries with economies in transition, to increase the level of awareness and technical competencies necessary at all levels of society to achieve sustainable development and to promote the

objectives of the Convention in such programmes; Urge countries to ensure coherence between the national strategies for biodiversity and other policies and strategies, in particular for (a) sustainable development and poverty eradication; (b) climate change and desertification and (c) economic activities, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism;

- (n) *Recognize* the commitment to halting deforestation and the loss of forest biodiversity and ensuring the sustainable use of timber and non-timber resources and the commitment to the full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity's expanded action-oriented work programme on all types of forest biological diversity in close cooperation with the United Nations Forum on Forests, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other forest-related processes and conventions, and with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders.
 - (o) *Encourage and enable* all stakeholders to contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and recognize in particular the specific role of youth, women and indigenous and local communities in conserving and using biodiversity in a sustainable way. In particular it is important to recognize the rights of the indigenous and local communities and incorporate, with their prior approval, their unique knowledge, innovations and practices in conserving biodiversity and securing sustainable development and promote their participation in the Convention process;
 - (p) *Urge* governments to undertake adequate measures with respect to their international obligations, including through the development of mechanisms for assessment and review of implementation and the establishment of compliance regimes;
16. *We reiterate* our commitment to the success of the Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which will be held in Bali, Indonesia on 27 May-7 June 2002 at ministerial level and the Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 26 August-4 September 2002. In this regard, we urge the Parties to constructively contribute to and actively participate in the process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in order to ensure the achievement of the objectives of the Convention, particularly those relating to poverty eradication and sustainable development.
17. *We welcome* the outcome of the Youth Conference and the Multi Stakeholder Dialogue, as annexed to this Ministerial Declaration, as valuable contributions to the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity and *resolve* to organise meetings of youth and of involved stakeholders in the framework of future Conferences of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Appendix I

**THE YOUTH DECLARATION TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY,
THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS**

We, the Youth of the World, want our voices be heard in all the decision-making that is taking place at the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. On the occasion of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties we met in The Hague, The Netherlands on 13-18 April 2002 and agreed on the following.

We know the importance of biological diversity in sustaining our lives and making this world a better place for people and nature to live in harmony.

We understand that there are threats to biodiversity and its disastrous consequences are now being felt.

We do not have enough scientific knowledge on the issue of biological diversity and we are aware that we do not have political power to make major differences in the world, but we do have sufficient knowledge to know what is happening to our world.

We recognise that problems associated with biological diversity concern everyone and that we need to act urgently as decisions made will greatly influence our future.

We need to speak out and ensure that our voices are heard and considered in all the decision-making that will take place here in this Convention on Biological Diversity and succeeding meetings or conferences on the said issue.

Forests

We understand the effects of rapid deforestation and loss of biodiversity of our forest areas. Forests are greatly needed; they are sites of immense biological diversity.

We, the youth would want to emphasise that:

- *Primary or ancient forest must be saved;*
- *Corruption in the trade of forest products and illegal logging must be stopped;*
- *Conventions and international regulations must be established on the trade of forest products;*
- *Poverty, amongst other factors lead to the degradation of our forests and must be fought in many fronts as it is equally related to the loss of forest biodiversity;*
- *Indigenous peoples and other stakeholders of the forests must be protected;*
- *Education at all levels and public awareness is necessary;*
- *Governments must realise that the benefits of proper forest management and the maintenance of biological diversity shall in the long run, bring economical as well as environmental advantages to everyone.*

Genetic resources

We also understand the importance of genetic resources and we need to let you know that:

- *Genetic resources are a precious asset of the entire humanity and cannot be used only for the benefit of a certain country or corporation and should be open for everyone to benefit from;*
- *We believe that all patenting on the benefits of genetic resources must not be allowed;*
- *Legal measures must be provided to secure the benefit sharing between developed and developing countries in the use of genetic resources;*
- *We are concerned of the potential threat of inhumane uses of genetic resources, such as genetic manipulation and production of biological weapons; and that we demand that the governments provide regulations to prevent this unethical and improper activity;*
- *Genetic resources must be preserved from genetic erosion and we insist that all nations cooperate in the protection of genetic resources.*

Participation in decision-making

Finally, we would like you to know that on the issue of participation in decision-making:

- *Participation and cooperation of the entire world, including the youth, is vital for the preservation of the world's biodiversity;*
- *The involvement of indigenous peoples is especially important as their valuable knowledge from living close to nature can be put to great use in the conservation of biological diversity;*
- *The role of women, children and the youth cannot be ignored;*
- *Workable and sound policies are necessary for the preservation of the world's biological diversity.*

To guarantee the future of the youth, we resolve to:

- *Organise an international network, starting with the participants in this youth meeting in the Hague, for continuous exchange of information and discussions;*
- *Assist each other in the establishment, management and implementation of activities of youth organisations in our respective countries for various environmental concerns in each particular state through the exchange of experience and advice;*
- *Come-up with specific, workable action plans that can be undertaken by the youth;*
- *Participate in all meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the future to convey the concerns of the youth;*

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- *Deliver the discussions held and the results achieved in this meeting to the youth of our respective countries;*
- *Continue to speak our ideas to the world through contribution of articles to the media;*
- *Utilise various media communication such as television, radio or internet to promote public awareness, especially of the youth.*

We, the Youth, gathered in this meeting, hereby urge that this document be adopted by the sixth Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity here at the Hague, on 18 April 2002.

Appendix II

MULTI STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE: SUMMARY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

1. On 18 April 2002, I chaired two sessions of the Multi Stakeholder Dialogue.
2. The Co-Chair on behalf of the non-governmental organizations was Maria José Lopez of Sobrevivencia, on behalf of Friends of the Earth (FOE) Paraguay.
3. The first session was attended by more than 200 delegates from parties and civil society organizations.
4. A keynote speech on the involvement of women in the conservation and wise sustainable use of biodiversity was delivered by Ms. Lorena Aguilar of the World Conservation Union.
5. She stated that conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are impossible without gender equity. She requested the issue to be addressed on institutional, political and practical levels. She argued when planners and policy-makers decisions are based on half the population, resource threats and poverty are only half understood, initiatives do not make use of the ideas and innovations of women and extra costs occur when initiatives are unsuccessful when they do not fit into daily practices. She noted that involvement is not in the numbers but in the quality of the process.
6. Two representatives of the Youth Conference gave a strong and well received speech. They represented themselves not as countries. They acted as true ambassadors of a very important stakeholder namely youth. Their dream was: no more loss of ancient forest and a world to be a place where harmony rules. They asked for immediate action to stop unsustainable practices and to involve all stakeholders in decision-making.
7. Statements were also made by representatives of various organizations and regions.
8. They asked for more effective representation of women in decision-making processes, including the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Earth itself was called a woman, a woman from which we can feed but we should not devour her. Mahatma Ghandi was quoted in saying: Nature can take care of the needs of people but not of the greed of people.
9. The second session was about access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
10. Due to the fact that the start of this session was postponed to late afternoon Mrs. Rigoberta Munchú Tum, representative of Fundacion Rigoberta Menchú Tum and Nobel Prize Winner, refrained from delivering her keynote speech. Her statement was distributed among the participants.
11. Statements were delivered on behalf of various organizations. Speakers noted that progress has been made by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The result of sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the guidelines for access and benefit sharing for genetic resources was noted as a good step forward, but several said they were disappointed by the speed of the process. More concrete action is necessary. Education and participation were mentioned as necessary tools for true access and benefit sharing.
12. It was the first time a multi stakeholder dialogue was held during a meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Due to unforeseen circumstances, it did not receive the time and attention it should have and I apologize to everyone who had prepared for these sessions.

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13. However I think it was a good take off, we must learn from our experience and improve on the process of dialogue between parties and civil society in future meetings. So I have good hope it will become a tradition from now on in the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
