

**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/9/INF/47
19 May 2008

ENGLISH ONLY

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

Ninth meeting

Bonn, 19-30 May 2008

Item 2.1 of the provisional agenda*

**STATEMENT FROM THE GRULAC REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING
OF 17 MAY 2008***Note by the Executive Secretary*

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the draft statement from the regional preparatory meeting of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC), which was held in Bonn on 17 May 2008.

2. The statement is being circulated in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat of the Convention.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/9/1.

Statement from the GRULAC Regional Preparatory Meeting of May 17, 2008

We, the 38 participants from 21 GRULAC Parties meeting on May 17, 2008, in the Hotel Maritim, Bonn, Germany, would like to thank Germany for its warm welcome to all delegates of the COP 9, and particularly Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, as President of COP 9, for his kind words at our meeting. We would also like to express some of our priorities in the COP.

1) GRULAC members identify agenda item 3.8 (Financial Resources and the Financial Mechanism) as its most important issue. Without new and additional resources from developed Parties, and the urgent financial commitment of all Parties, other governments, development agencies and other donors, the CBD decisions and in particular the 2010 target will not be reached. GRULAC would like to be fully represented in all contact groups dealing with financial issues at the COP.

2) Noting further the next priority, we highlight the need to reach consensus on the adoption of an international regime on ABS by COP 10. COP 9 is our last chance to meet the 2010 goal on the third objective of the CBD, without which the other two would not be reached successfully.

3) GRULAC also expresses concerns regarding procedures in SBSTTA, particularly:

- Avoiding the inclusion of documents not previously circulated to all Parties;
- Careful planning of meetings to avoid lack of interpretation, without which full participation of Parties is not possible, and to avoid overlap between working groups and meetings of the Committee of the Whole, not allowing smaller delegations to be in both;
- Ensuring that statements, particularly by NGOs, are respectful of Parties;
- Final adoption of recommendations with bracketed text.

4) All GRULAC members recognize the importance of island ecosystems, and feel that an in-depth review of the programme of work on Island Biodiversity is needed by COP 11. GRULAC also expresses its recognition and support to the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), as the main implementation platform for the island biodiversity programme of work.

5) GRULAC supports the draft decision, proposed by Brazil, on cities and biodiversity, noting that cities play an essential role in the implementation of the COP decisions, and that biodiversity also has to be handled in the urban context. GRULAC reiterates the importance of biodiversity as a critical resource for alleviation of poverty and hunger in developing countries, and, given the importance of forest biodiversity in GRULAC members, highlights the importance of reaching consensus on the issues remaining in bracketed text in the SBSTTA recommendation.

6) Finally, we would like to express our deep gratitude to the Governments of Spain and Germany for the financial support that allowed us to meet prior to COP 9.
