



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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BRAINSTORMING MEETING ON SOUTH-SOUTH
COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY
Montreal 6-8 November 2006

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. Since the adoption in 1978 of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and in 1981 of the Caracas Programme of Action on economic cooperation among developing countries, South-South cooperation (SSC) has been a key element in fostering the solidarity and cohesiveness of developing countries on all issues related to the international economic cooperation. The importance of enhancing South-South cooperation in the context of United Nations activities and, in particular, on issues related to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, including goal 7, on the environment, was emphasized by the 2005 World Review Summit of the United Nations General Assembly, which was attended by 154 Heads of State and Government. The 131 members of the Group of 77 possess a wealth of biodiversity and have been key players during the negotiation, preparation and finalization of the Convention on Biological Diversity. They are now fully engaged in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, namely: the conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. They will greatly benefit from exchanging their respective experience and promoting best practices, as well as from inter- and intra-regional cooperation.
2. It is in this spirit that, in May 2006, HE Ambassador Dumisani S. Kumalo of South Africa, Chairman of the Group of 77, referring to the outcome of 2005 World Review Summit and to the importance of South-South cooperation for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, including goal 7, on the environment requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to consider convening an expert meeting with a view of adopting a multi-year plan of action on South-South cooperation for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention for submission to the High-Level Segment of the nine meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Germany in 2008.
3. In February 2006, the Executive Secretary also received a request from HE Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Forest Economy and Environment of the Republic of Congo, acting as the President of the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC), aimed at facilitating the exchange of experience between the COMIFAC, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the context of South-South cooperation. The request was welcomed by the Secretariat of the Amazon Treaty Organization. This request was recently reiterated by HE Mr. Henri Djombo in his capacity as the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN).
4. Pursuant to these requests, and with the generous financial support from Government of Netherlands, the Executive Secretary in partnership with the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York is

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convening a brainstorming meeting in Montreal from 6 to 8 November 2006 with a view to preparing for the open-ended expert group to be held in late 2007. The objectives of this brainstorming meeting are to:

(a) Discuss the elements of a plan of action for South-South cooperation that would enhance implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the Millennium Development Goals, in particular goal 7;

(b) Offer a platform of informal discussion between COMIFAC, Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and ASEAN to discuss modalities for collaboration and exchange of experiences as one modality for the implementation of the Action Plan on South-South Cooperation when adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Bonn, in May 2008;

(c) Make recommendations on the preparation of the open-ended expert meeting on South-South cooperation on biodiversity to be held in the latter half of 2007 and on the process for developing a five- year plan of action on the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention.

5. The Executive Secretary has prepared a background document to facilitate the tasks of this brainstorming meeting (UNEP/CBD/BM-SSC/1/2/Rev.2). A list of useful documents for the workshop is attached as annex I below.

6. Registration of participants will commence at 9 a.m. on Monday, 6 November 2006, at the premises of the Secretariat, located at 413 St Jacques Street West, Suite 800, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H2Y 1N9. The meeting will be held in the Joke Waller-Hunter Conference Room at the same location.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

7. The meeting will be opened at 9.30 a.m. by Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention, HE Ambassador Dumisani S. Kumalo, Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York, and representatives of Canadian federal, provincial and municipal authorities. HE Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Forest Economy and Environment of the Republic of Congo and President of AMCEN, as well as HE Ms Paulette Oyane, the Minister of Trade and Industry of the Republic of Gabon, will deliver an opening statements, together with Ms Rosalia Arteaga Serrano, Secretary General of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), and Mr. Jonas Nagahuedi Sodi, Executive Secretary of COMIFAC.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES

8. The working sessions of the planning meeting will be limited to the representatives of the Group of 77 and China assisted by the secretariat. The participants will be invited to elect a Chair and a Rapporteur for the meeting based on proposals from the floor.

9. Participants will be invited to consider for adoption the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/BM-SSC/1/1).

10. The language of the meeting will be English.

11. Participants will be invited to consider the proposed organization of work for the meeting as contained in annex II below. They may wish to conduct the initial deliberations in plenary, but may decide to break into smaller groups for discussions and the drafting of specific recommendations, as required.

ITEM 3. PRESENTATIONS ON THE MAIN BIODIVERSITY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES RELEVANT TO SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

12. Under this item, participants will be invited to make brief presentations on their experiences in South-South cooperation on biodiversity issues, including challenges and opportunities for furthering such cooperation. Information shared under this item will be used during the consideration of agenda items 5 and 6 below.

ITEM 4 ELEMENTS OF A PLAN OF ACTION ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THREE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION AND THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

13. Under this item, participants will be invited to identify elements of a multi-year plan of action on South-South cooperation for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The background note prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/BM-SSC/1/2) summarizes some lessons learned from ongoing South-South cooperation in the context of various plans of action. It also lists some possible mechanisms for fostering South-South cooperation derived from the lessons learned and contains a table outlining these mechanisms and relating them to the specific themes and activities described in the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

14. Participants may wish to examine the table of activities offering opportunities for South-South cooperation, as contained in the note by the Executive Secretary, and develop elements for a multi-year plan of action for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention.

ITEM 5 DISCUSSION ON MODALITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN WHEN ADOPTED BY PARTIES, INCLUDING INFORMAL DISCUSSION ON EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AFRICA FORESTS COMMISSION (COMIFAC), THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION AND THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH-EAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)

15. The planning meeting will provide an opportunity to exchange views on the modalities of implementation of the action plan on South-South cooperation. At the initiative of HE Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Forest Economy and Environment of the Republic of the Congo and current President of AMCEN, an informal meeting on exchange of experience with the COMIFAC, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and the Association of South-East Asian nations will be convened to discuss collaboration among them as one modality for the implementation of the Action Plan when adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Bonn, Germany, in May 2008. The three partners will meet informally at the small conference room of the secretariat at their convenience. Mr Oliver Hillel from the Secretariat will facilitate the exchange of views during this informal meeting.

ITEM 6. PREPARATION OF THE OPEN-ENDED BIODIVERSITY EXPERT MEETING ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

16. Under this item, participants will be invited to discuss and make recommendations on a process for developing a plan of action that should include, *inter alia*:

(a) Organization of an expert meeting in 2007 (including development of a provisional agenda, and criteria for selecting experts as well as date and possible venue);

(b) Establishment of a steering committee to guide the preparation and the convening of the meeting;

(c) Discussion of ways and means for ensuring a successful implementation of the plan of action (including means of implementation as well as financial resources).

ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

17. Under this item, participants may wish to raise other matters related to the subject matter of the meeting.

ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

18. Under this item, participants will be invited to consider and adopt their report on the basis of the draft report to be prepared and presented by the Rapporteur. The Minister of Forest Economy and the Environment of the Republic of Congo will submit a report on the outcome of the discussion on item 4.

ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

19. The meeting is expected to be closed at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, 8 November 2006. It will be followed by a visit to the Montreal Biodôme and Botanical Garden.

Annex I

**PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE BRAINSTORMING MEETING ON
SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/BM-SSC/1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/ BM-SSC/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/BM-SSC/1/2	Elements for a multi-year plan of action for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development.
<i>Background documents (available at http://www.biodiv.org/meetings/ssc-01/default.shtml)</i>	
Buenos Aires Plan of Action (1994)	
Caracas Programme of Action (1981)	
Cairo Declaration on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (1986)	
Bali Plan of Action (1998)	
Havana Programme of Action (2000)	
Marrakech Framework for Implementation of South South Cooperation (2003)	
Doha Plan of Action (2005)	
UNEP Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building (2005)	
Report of the Secretary-General on the state of South-South cooperation submitted to the sixtieth session of the General Assembly (A/60/257) (2005)	

*Annex II***PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE BRAINSTORMING MEETING ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**

Monday, 6 November 2006 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	Opening of the meeting (agenda item 1) Organizational issues (agenda item 2) Presentations on main biodiversity challenges and opportunities relevant to South-South cooperation (agenda item 3)
Monday, 6 November 2006 2.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.	Continuation of agenda item 3 Elements of a plan of action on South-South cooperation for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and Millennium Development Goals (agenda item 4). Break-out group for the exchange of experiences between the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC), the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) (agenda item 5)
Tuesday, 7 November 2006 9.30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Continuation of agenda item 4 Break-out groups for defining elements of the action plan.
Tuesday, 7 November 2006 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Preparation of the open ended biodiversity expert meeting on south south cooperation (agenda item 6) Continuation of discussions on agenda items 5 and 6 and drafting of recommendations
Wednesday, 8 November 2006 9:30 a.m. 1.00 p.m.	Other matters (agenda item 7) Presentation by the HE Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Forest Economy and Environment of the Republic of Congo on the result of the discussion on item 5 Adoption of the draft report (agenda item 8) Closure of the meeting (agenda item 9)
Wednesday, 8 November 2006 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m..	Visit to the Montreal Biodôme and Botanical Garden.
