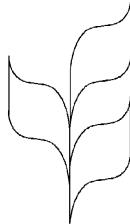




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BRAINSTORMING MEETING ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY

Montreal 6-8 November 2006

REPORT OF THE BRAINSTORMING MEETING ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY

INTRODUCTION

1. Since the adoption of the 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the 1981 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 1 on poverty and hunger and goal 7, on the environment, was emphasized by the 2005 World Review Summit of the United Nations General Assembly. 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. 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, H.E. 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, in particular, goals 1 and 7, 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 ninth 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 H.E. Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Forest Economy and Environment of the Republic of the Congo, acting as the President of the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC), aimed at facilitating the exchange of experience between COMIFAC, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and the Association of Southeast 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 H.E. Mr. Henri Djombo in his capacity as the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN).

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4. Pursuant to these requests, the Executive Secretary in partnership with the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York convened a brainstorming meeting in Montreal from 6 to 8 November 2006. The objectives of this brainstorming meeting were 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 goals 1 and 7;

(b) Offer a platform of informal discussion between COMIFAC, ACTO and ASEAN to discuss modalities for collaboration and exchange of experiences in the context of South-South cooperation;

(c) Make recommendations on the process from the development through to the adoption of a multi-year programme of work on South-South cooperation on biodiversity.

5. The brainstorming meeting was attended by 24 experts from Brazil, Gabon, the Republic of the Congo, South Africa, and Timor-Leste; the Group of 77 and China, the United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), the ASEAN Secretariat, the Central African Forests Commission, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and, as an observer, the IUCN–World Conservation Union. The full list of participants is attached as annex II below.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

6. The meeting was opened at 9.30 a.m. on Monday, 6 November 2006 by Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the Convention, after a short video on the importance of global biodiversity, prepared by the Government of Brazil. The content of the letter of Prof. Wangari Maathai, 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Goodwill Ambassador for the Congo Basin Forest Ecosystem and Presiding officer of ECOSOC of the African Union, addressed to the Executive Secretary conveying her full support to the South-South initiative for the implementation of the three objectives was brought to the attention of the participants.

7. In his remarks, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf said he was honoured that H.E. Mr. Henri Djombo, President of AMCEN and Minister of Forest Economy and Environment of the Republic of the Congo, and H.E. Ambassador Dumisani S. Kumalo, Chairman of the Group of 77, had accepted the invitation to attend the meeting. He said that the promotion of South-South cooperation had been a key feature of the Group of 77 (G-77) and that the current meeting represented the first time that the secretariat of a multilateral environmental convention had joined force with the Secretariat of the G-77 to promote South-South cooperation. He congratulated the Chairman of the G-77 for his initiative and offered the full support of the Secretariat for the preparation and implementation of the multi-year action plan to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its ninth meeting. He also congratulated Minister Djombo for suggesting a modality for the implementation of the South-South initiative among the Congo basin, the Amazon basin and the ASEAN region. He also welcomed Ms. Rosalia Arteaga Serrano, Secretary-General of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) and Dr. Monina Uriarte, of the ASEAN Secretariat. He also welcomed the presence of Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, from the Government of Germany, who was visiting the Secretariat to discuss the preparation of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and stated that his participation at the opening ceremony was a testimony to the support of the host of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for this important initiative.

8. H.E. Ambassador Dumisani S. Kumalo, Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York, stated that the G-77 and China believed that the current meeting could be an impetus to strengthen discussions on South-South cooperation on biodiversity conservation, which could in turn help developing countries to implement the three objectives of the Convention and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in particular goal 7. He added that the G-77 and China attached the highest importance to the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and pointed out that while South-South cooperation had made great progress in the realm of trade and overall economic development, it had achieved limited

success in the field of the environment. He emphasized that South-South cooperation was not a substitute for Parties' obligations under the Convention and that it should be viewed as a complement to, rather than a replacement for, North-South cooperation.

9. H.E. Mr. Henri Djombo, Minister of Forest Economy and Environment of the Republic of the Congo and President of AMCEN, explained that the current initiative responded to requests made by his Government earlier in the year. He noted that the meeting was the first step to harmonizing sustainable development of water, plants and wildlife among the world's three great tropical watersheds and forests, to identify mechanisms that would lead to a unique partnership for management and conservation of the tropical environment for the benefit of the more than 60% of the population of Central Africa who depended directly on the forests for their vital needs, as well as the whole planet. He emphasized that protection of tropical forests required cooperation among developed and developing countries, as well as exchange of experiences among countries in the South. Mr. Djombo also briefly described various initiatives in the Congo basin directed at the coordinated conservation and sustainable use of these forests, including harmonization of legislation, transboundary protected areas, and forest certification.

10. Ms Rosalia Arteaga Serrano, Secretary General of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), informed participants that as many as 30 million people lived in the Amazon basin. She likened the Amazon to the "air conditioning" of the world because of its role in climate regulation. ACTO had been launched in 1978, when the eight countries of the Amazon basin had signed a treaty to discuss sustainable development. The existence of ACTO was a demonstration that those countries wanted to work together to maintain biodiversity. Ms. Arteaga further stated that ACTO had already begun to discuss with ASEAN and COMIFAC cooperation on a number of issues, including sustainable management of transboundary water resources, strengthening sustainable use of forest biodiversity, ecotourism, a regional action plan, public information with regional access, and strengthening conservation-oriented actions. Ms. Arteaga pointed out that the world had an enormous responsibility to protect the biodiversity of the South. She concluded that ACTO has "some expertise and an open mind to learn from others here".

11. Mr. Jonas Nagahuedi Sodi, Executive Secretary of COMIFAC, provided a history of his organization, which was rooted in the 1999 Yaounde Declaration on forests and had officially come into being in 2000, at which time a subregional convergence plan had been developed. All national or subregional initiatives must fall under the priorities of this convergence plan. Noting that the forests of the Amazon and Southeast Asia faced many of the same problems as those of Central Africa, Mr. Sodi stated that close cooperation between the three regions was necessary. He reassured participants that COMIFAC supported such cooperation, as evidenced by a decision made by the extraordinary Council of Ministers of COMIFAC earlier in the year. Mr. Sodi identified the following opportunities for cooperation: sustainable forest management; forest certification; Africa forest law enforcement and governance (the "AFLEG initiative"); innovative financing mechanisms for biodiversity conservation; capacity-building; and sustainable use of biodiversity resources and benefit sharing. He noted that in order to ensure that such a cooperation platform became fully operational, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity would have to play a key role in coordination.

12. Ms. Monina T. Uriarte, representing the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), presented some notable cooperation between ASEAN and its 10 member countries. Timor-Leste was also acknowledged. She explained that one of the ASEAN initiatives was the establishment of the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity (ACB), an intergovernmental institution whose main activities were policy research and formulation, capacity-building, public awareness, and database information management. As for South-South cooperation, particularly the Heart of Borneo, each member country had its own initiatives and ASEAN could play an important role in the implementation of these activities.

13. Speaking on behalf of H.E. Ms. Georgette Koko, Vice-Prime Minister and Minister of the Environment, Nature Protection, Research and Technology of the Republic of Gabon, Ludovic Ngok Banak, indicated that COMIFAC had agreed earlier in the year on closer cooperation between the three tropical forest basins, and that Gabon, a member of COMIFAC, was firmly committed to sustainable

development of its forests and to biodiversity in general. Gabon had devoted more than 10% of its territory to 13 national parks. Gabon was ready to share its experience and expected that exchanges such as the current brainstorming session would strengthen capacity. He announced that Gabon would be pleased to host the African regional meeting on South-South cooperation for biodiversity.

14. Mr. Cosmas Gitta, delivering a message from Yiping Zhou Director of Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), pointed out that because biodiversity was concentrated in the South, it was a prime area for South-South cooperation; solutions could not come from individual countries. The focus must be on strategic initiatives that would benefit many countries. Mr. Gitta noted that, despite numerous South-South agreements, several reports of the Secretary-General drew attention to the relative lack of action. He expressed his pleasure that the Executive Secretary had focused on action as the theme of the current brainstorming session.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES

15. The meeting was chaired by Ambassador Kumalo, and, in his absence, by Ms. Suhayfa Ebrahim Zia of South Africa. Ms Raquel Breda dos Santos of Brazil was elected Rapporteur for the meeting.

16. Participants adopted the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/BM-SSC/1/1).

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

17. Under this item, participants made presentations on their experiences in South-South cooperation on biodiversity issues, including challenges and opportunities for furthering such cooperation.

18. Mr. Eduardo Praselj, Chairman of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF), explained that the PGTF had been in operation since 1983, when it had been established by a resolution of the General Assembly as a mechanism for South-South cooperation. The Fund was a marriage between UNDP and the G-77; the former administered resources and the latter selected projects, allocated resources, followed up and monitored projects with the support of the office of the G-77 in New York. It was a simple cost-effective mechanism for providing catalytic funds to help launch projects. The small amount of funding provided by the Trust Fund could trigger more substantial funding from other organizations. The Fund had a core capital of \$6 million, of which only the interest accrued on the core capital could be used. About \$1.2 million had been raised in contributions. Some \$9.5 million had been provided in support to 167 projects in 114 member countries directly and all of them collectively. About one third of the total projects (50 projects worth almost \$3 million) had focused on food and agriculture. Other priority areas were trade, energy, raw materials, industrialization, finance, technology and technical cooperation among developing countries. Projects in the field of biodiversity had included organic farming of rice and other crops, effective use of genetic resources (rice, maize and groundnuts), capacity-building in biosafety, pilot projects to prevent land degradation in Africa, management of water resources, irrigation and drainage, pest control, and rainwater harvesting.

19. Mr. Jimmy Blas, of the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations, highlighted the contributions of G-77 experts to draft resolutions on biodiversity, which had been forwarded to the Secretariat of the Convention for information. He also highlighted the declaration proposed by the G-77 to name 2010 the International Year for Biodiversity, and similar initiatives on forests and natural fibres meant to heighten the awareness of the international community. Mr. Blas emphasized the need for action-oriented resolutions, as opposed to the many terms of reference already in existence, in order to move forward to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Mr. Blas agreed with other speakers that the weakness lay in the area of programme implementation. He commended the work of the PGTF and said that such organizations, as well as the sharing of experiences, could concretize South-South cooperation. The South, he said, should avail itself of Southern organizations.

20. Mr. Ositadinma Anaedu of Nigeria pointed out that the South had been divided. Until 2000, the G-77 was not negotiating as a group. The ecosystems of the South, be it the forests of the Congo or the

Amazon, or the Sahara Desert, were affected by the same stimuli. That reality highlighted the importance of the current meeting. Mr. Anaedu flagged the following emerging issues: (i) the resource allocation framework of the Global Environment Facility, which he felt the South did not know enough about; and (ii) capacity-building, for example, in forest management and technology. He pointed out that those were new issues, and developing countries had not had the opportunity to learn from others. Mr. Anaedu pointed out that implementation had been slow and difficult, because of the problem of financial resources and the dependence of the South on financial resources outside its control.

21. Ms. Rosalia Arteaga Serrano, of ACTO, pointed out that the assistance of the regional organizations demonstrated that South-South cooperation was possible and provided an example of practical implementation. Since the previous year, Brazil had contributed US\$ 250,000 to enable ACTO members to share remote-sensing and database information produced by the Brazilian National Institute for Amazonian Research (INPE). Brazil was building the capacity of scientists through workshops and other means.

22. Mr. Paulo Kageyama, representing H.E. Marina Silva, Minister of the Environment of Brazil, delivered a presentation on Brazil's experience in South-South cooperation. He first pointed out that the Brazilian Government was committed to South-South cooperation, primarily with South American and African countries. He gave examples of such cooperation, such as the development of biodiversity strategies for South America and Mercosur and the establishment of ACTO. He mentioned collaborative programs with South Africa on invasive species, poverty alleviation and the Water for Life project as well as environmental education programmes with some Portuguese-speaking African countries. Mr. Kageyama also informed participants about proposals under consideration in Brazil on some biodiversity-related activities that might involve some developing countries, including a plan to combat deforestation, forest sustainable development and forest restoration. Finally, he outlined some coordination efforts with the megabiodiverse countries, pointing out that those countries shared common objectives, such as enhancing biodiversity's contribution to poverty alleviation and addressing means to balance avoided deforestation and climate-change mitigation. He also pointed out South American countries cooperated out of common biodiversity and shared problems.

23. Mr. Jonas Nagahuedi Mbongu Sodi, Executive Secretary of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), presented strategies adopted and actions taken by COMIFAC for sustainable biodiversity management. He started by introducing COMIFAC, which was responsible for orienting, coordinating and monitoring forest and environmental policies and initiatives in the Central African region involving ten countries. The Commission had been established as a follow-up to the adoption of a forest treaty by these ten countries, which provided a subregional legal framework for ensuring conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems of Central Africa. A convergence plan had also been adopted to provide a framework for member States to take priority actions regarding conservation and sustainable forest management, with funding provided by member states and development partners. Other subregional institutions, such as the Conference on Dense and Humid Forest Ecosystems of Central Africa (CEFDHAC), ADIE, OCFSA, OAB and the Network of Protected Areas in Central Africa (RAPAC), carried out specific responsibilities to implement the convergence plan. For example, ADIE was responsible for managing and disseminating environmental information to all relevant stakeholders. RAPAC was responsible for managing networks of national protected areas. Currently, COMIFAC was harmonizing forest policies and control systems in Central Africa, developing sustainable funding mechanisms for biodiversity conservation and building capacities of senior managers in the subregion. Finally, he shared elements of the work of the cooperation platform, covering sustainable forest management, forest certification, forest law enforcement and governance, innovative funding mechanisms for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use of resources and benefit-sharing, and capacity-building.

24. Mr. Bob Kakuyo, South-South Cooperation Coordinator of UNEP, introduced the UNEP approaches to, and experiences in, South-South cooperation. He started by introducing the Bali Strategic Plan, which identified South-South cooperation as one of the principle mechanisms for its implementation. He pointed out that the primary objective of the Bali Strategic Plan was to strengthen

technology support and capacity-building in developing countries as well as to provide a coherent umbrella platform and systematic mechanism for enhanced national environmental capacity building and technology support. He highlighted the key elements of the Bali Strategic Plan, including its focus on national priorities and needs, and its emphasis on collaboration and partnerships. He also pointed out that the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan reinforced the role of UNEP in technology support and capacity-building, and provided strategic direction for its work in that regard.

25. With regard to the experience of UNEP in South-South cooperation, Mr. Kakuyo pointed out that UNEP's capacity-building activities were varied and extensive, with a mixture of South-South and South-North cooperation. Specifically, UNEP had been operationalizing South-South cooperation for delivery of technology support and capacity-building activities, supporting initiatives with demonstrable results, harnessing the potential of regional institutions, identifying and building partnerships and employing advocacy approaches for promoting South-South cooperation. UNEP had also been developing and strengthening focused networks, developing linkages with other South-South cooperation initiatives, involving civil society, academia and research institutions and promoting triangular cooperation. UNEP had organized a high-level consultation on South-South cooperation and was currently developing a clearing-house for South-South cooperation, consulting with external partners, including UNDP, the China-Africa Cooperation Forum, the New Asia-Africa Strategic Partnership, NEPAD, emerging economies (such as Brazil and South Africa) and some multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including the Convention on Biological Diversity, to promote South-South cooperation.

26. Mr. Kakuyo also highlighted a few general lessons learned in implementing start-up South-South cooperation activities, including commitment of resources, the need to develop priority high-profile initiatives, ensuring multiplicity of benefits from cooperation, convergence with priority donor requirements and generation of tangible outputs. He shared some possible challenges for South-South cooperation in biodiversity, such as matching available expertise, technology and experience with identified needs, identifying opportunities and practical mechanisms to facilitate and maximize expertise on South-South cooperation, institutional arrangements, and sustaining South-South cooperation initiatives. He also pointed to potential opportunities for South-South cooperation on biodiversity, such as the current global support and commitment for South-South cooperation, the United Nations reform process, and the meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity (Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties) and the ongoing efforts to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target.

27. Mr. Cosmas Gitta, of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of UNDP, suggested some possible ways and means to promote South-South cooperation in biodiversity. Those included suggestions for work at the country and multi-country level, cooperation for global and South-North major negotiations, other South-South cooperation opportunities, work with the United Nations system and triangular cooperation. At the country level, he suggested that developing countries should identify focal points and stakeholders involved, develop policies and guidelines for promoting South-South cooperation approaches, inventory expertise and programmes for South-South cooperation and identify issues and areas where interested countries may seek cooperation. At the multi-country level, he suggested biodiversity should be taken into consideration in regional integration, regional and subregional development programmes and inter-regional South-South programmes. In undertaking major global and South-North negotiations, developing countries could, for example, organize consultations prior to negotiation, undertake joint research on issues of common interest, develop common negotiation strategies and positions, and designate lead negotiators. On other South-South cooperation opportunities, he identified the Millennium Development Goals as a special focus where developing countries could work together to achieve goals identified, as well as some initiatives on a South-South basis, such as joint reforestation efforts by the African Union in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Within the United Nations system, relevant organizations could coordinate and harmonize their efforts in promoting South-South cooperation. On triangular cooperation, he pointed out that some countries, groups and non-governmental organizations from the North could be invited to support South-South cooperation on biodiversity, especially as it involved the protection and nurturance of global public goods.

28. Mr. Ositadinma Anaedu of Nigeria offered some brief remarks on the functioning of the G-77 and the importance of implementing the outcomes of the current brainstorming session. He pointed out that although the G-77 has been negotiating externally for some 40 years, its members had not been interacting as cooperatively as they could. There had not been a tangible internal South-South cooperation relationship. Mr. Anaedu emphasized that they should not be satisfied in reaching an agreement on behalf of the South; it is the implementation and the means of implementation that counts. The will must be reflected in the budget. He also pointed out that additional communication and interaction with the G-77 Secretariat was needed, as members could not implement decisions on their own. Mr. Anaedu concluded by noting that the developing world needed continuity and a coaching culture—the possibility of sharing experience from one meeting to the next.

29. Ms Monina Uriarte, representing the Center for Biodiversity of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), introduced the experiences and lessons ASEAN had learned in its efforts to conserve biodiversity. She started by providing an overview of the status of biodiversity in the member States of ASEAN, pointing out that the region was a centre for biodiversity, with more than five member countries considered biodiversity hotspots. She explained also that in spite of its cultural diversity, the region shared a common natural and historical heritage. Indicative of that was that nine member States shared the same marine biodiversity, five of them were linked by the Mekong River, and three shared the Heart of Borneo. For this reason, the ASEAN member States had been working together to protect their common natural heritage, including through the establishment of transboundary protected areas, the development of taxonomic capacities and the setting up of the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, which was a collaborative project between the European Union and ASEAN. She said that the overall objective of the Centre was to help the member States implement the Convention, in particular to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target. She explained that the Center's programmes included policy coordination, human resources and institutional capacity development, database management and information-sharing, biodiversity-awareness for leaders and the public, and establishing and managing sustainable financing mechanisms.

30. Ms. Estherine Lisinge Fotabong, Head of the Environment Department of the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, welcomed the initiative of the Group of 77 and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. She reminded participants that NEPAD had been created by the African leadership, with the support of the United Nations system and development partners, and that NEPAD had an environmental chapter. The discussions in the current meeting fully reflected the content of NEPAD's decisions, and NEPAD looked forward to continuing to support and participate in the process. South-South cooperation was key to achieving NEPAD's Environment Action Plan, and in the context of South-South cooperation, it implied cooperation both within the African region and with other G-77 members. Therefore, NEPAD supported the framework and was encouraged by the AMCEN support through Gabon's delegation. She reminded participants that some members of NEPAD had specific know-how to share with other G-77 members, for instance Egypt's benchmark experience in the clean development mechanism and South Africa's initiatives on invasive alien species. NEPAD also welcomed the South-South cooperation initiative of the three forest basins of the Congo, Amazon and the Heart of Borneo, and would be pleased to contribute to that process. Finally, based on NEPAD's experience, she emphasized the importance of regional consultations for the further development of the action plan on South-South cooperation on biodiversity discussed at the current meeting, as it would increase ownership among G-77 members and favour the implementation of the plan.

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

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)

AND

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

31. Under these items the participants, following deliberations, agreed on objectives, possible programme areas, possible mechanisms, possible management arrangements for furthering the process, and suggested a preparatory process for the development of a plan of action for South-South cooperation on biodiversity. The framework is attached as annex I below.

32. Ms. Suhayfa Ebrahim Zia, speaking in her national capacity for South Africa, cautioned meeting participants that the possible regional meetings should in no way attempt to undermine the global process on the access and benefit-sharing regime, which is envisaged for 2010.

33. Through the kind support of the government of the Netherlands, the representatives of COMIFAC, ACTO and ASEAN, along with delegates of the Republic of the Congo and Gabon and Ms Raquel Breda dos Santos, the Rapporteur, met separately to discuss the elements of their cooperation particularly on forest biodiversity, focused on the three world's largest forest basins (the Amazon, the Congo basin and Borneo), and to define ways and means to enhance the exchange of their respective experiences within the broader framework of South-South cooperation. Areas of collaboration were identified as a modality for the implementation of the action plan when adopted by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

34. There were no other matters.

ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

35. The present report was adopted on Wednesday, 8 November 2006, on the basis of the draft report prepared and presented by the rapporteur.

ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

36. In his closing remarks, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf, thanked the Chair for conducting the meeting in an efficient and admirable manner and for steering the meeting toward a framework for developing an action plan on South-South cooperation for biodiversity. He thanked all participants for their constructive contributions. Reiterating the importance of South-South cooperation for effective implementation of the convention on life on Earth, he welcomed Timor-Leste, the 189th Party to the Convention. He emphasized the need for universal participation in the Convention to safeguard the future of the planet's six billion people. Mr. Ahmed also thanked the G-77 Secretariat and the representatives of UNDP and the UNEP South-South cooperation programme, and representatives of the three forest basins (ACTO, COMIFAC and ASEAN) for their inputs to the process. He referred to the historic significance of this meeting, as it had facilitated the development of an action plan for enhancing cooperation among

developing countries on biodiversity. In recognition of their contribution, Mr. Djoghlaf presented certificates of participation to each of the participants.

37. The Chair thanked the participants for their participation and congratulated them for agreeing on a framework for South-South cooperation on biodiversity. She also thanked the Convention Secretariat for organizing the meeting.

38. Following customary exchange of courtesies, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, 8 November 2006. The closure of the meeting was followed by a visit by participants to the Montreal Biodôme and Botanical Garden.

*Annex I***FRAMEWORK FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION ON BIODIVERSITY**

South-South Cooperation is any activity that involves the deliberate and voluntary sharing, pooling or exchange of economic and technical resources, knowledge, experience, skills and capabilities among developing countries for their individual and mutual development.

North-South cooperation is fundamental for our development and developing countries expect solidarity, understanding, cooperation and real partnership from the North.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this initiative is to develop a plan of action to enhance through South-South cooperation the capacity of developing countries and their regional and sub – regional organizations to contribute to:

- The implementation of the three objectives of the Convention (namely the conservation, sustainable use of biological diversity, and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources), and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
- The achievement of the biodiversity 2010 target, to significantly reduce the current rate of loss of biological diversity, that will require the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries;
- The achievement of goals 1 and 7 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

This plan of action is intended to be submitted for consideration and adoption by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, scheduled for May 2008 in Bonn, Germany.

SUGGESTED PROGRAMME AREAS

- Legislation and public policies
- Agricultural biodiversity
- Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity
- Forest biodiversity¹
 - Sustainable forest management
 - Forest certification
 - Forest law enforcement and governance
- Inland waters biodiversity
- Island biodiversity
- Marine and coastal biodiversity
- Mountain biodiversity
- Biodiversity restoration
- Access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing
- Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices

¹ Suggested by COMIFAC during a small break out meeting as a contribution to agenda item 5 (informal discussion on exchange of experiences among COMIFAC, ACTO and ASEAN)

- Biological diversity and tourism
- Climate change and biological diversity
- Economics, trade economics, trade and incentive measures
- Technology transfer and scientific and technological cooperation
- Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
- Global Taxonomy Initiative
- Invasive alien species
- Impact assessment
- Protected areas
- Communication
- Education and public awareness
- Biosafety
- Mobilization of resources (traditional and innovative)

POSSIBLE MECHANISMS FOR ENHANCING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

1. Capacity building:
 - 1.1 Joint training programmes;
 - 1.2 Exchanges/secondments of experts and advisors;
 - 1.3 Study visits;
 - 1.4 Internships.
2. Collaborative research.
3. Information-sharing:
 - 3.1 Actual or virtual conferences, seminars and workshops;
 - 3.2 Web-based platforms and networks;
 - 3.3 Clearing house mechanisms;
 - 3.4 Databases;
 - 3.5 Translation and exchange of publications.
4. Transboundary and inter- and intraregional initiatives.
5. Coordination of positions on international negotiations.
6. Institutional linkages and partnerships.
7. Resource mobilization.
8. Transfer of technology and knowledge.
9. Education and public awareness.

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POSSIBLE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Possible management arrangements for furthering this process.

A G-77 initiative jointly executed by both the Office of G77 and the Secretariat of the CBD in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies (UNDP and UNEP) and organizations (including facilitation of meetings, communications, preparation and dissemination of documents to member States, mobilization of resources, etc.).

SUGGESTED PREPARATORY PROCESS

- The outcome of the brainstorming meeting will be made available to all G-77 member States for furthering the preparatory process of developing an action plan on south-south cooperation for biodiversity.
- It was suggested that a meeting of the G-77 on South-South cooperation on biodiversity be held back to back with the G-77 ministerial forum on water resources in Oman to be held on 22 March 2007. The roundtable on water resources and biodiversity scheduled in the context of this ministerial forum may provide an opportunity for further discussions on the process. The outcome of this meeting may be made available to the regional preparatory meetings.
- It was suggested that regional preparatory meetings might provide useful inputs for the abovementioned expert meeting. The regional meetings are envisaged to take place between April and September 2007. In this regard Gabon has offered to host the African regional meeting.
- The outcome of the discussions on south-south cooperation for biodiversity will also be brought to the attention of the United Nations High Level Committee on South-South Cooperation, to be held from 29 May to 1 June 2007 in New York, through the UNEP report to the Committee.
- It is anticipated that a G-77 and China expert meeting will be held by early 2008 and will be entrusted with the development of a plan of action for South-South cooperation on biodiversity based on preparatory regional meetings, which will be submitted for review and endorsement by the Group of 77 and for adoption by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its ninth meeting..

Annex II

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Brazil

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