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20 February 2002

NOTIFICATION

High Level Segment/Ministerial Segment during the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

The Hague, The Netherlands, 7-19 April 2002

This Notification serves to advise that the Government of the Netherlands, host government of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-6) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, is organizing a High Level Segment on 17 and 18 April 2002 in The Hague.

The Government of the Netherlands has taken the initiative to organise a Ministerial Roundtable discussion (ministers only) on 17 April 2002 where the focus of the discussions will be on the role and contribution of the CBD to the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002 in Johannesburg. Considering the state of play of discussions on other priority issues during COP-6, other issues could be discussed such as sustainable forest management and the promoting of an action-oriented approach to come to results in the field of forests and biodiversity and the contribution to this process of an enhanced co-operation between CBD, United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

The involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the successful implementation of the Convention is essential. For that reason, a Multi Stakeholder Dialogue on relevant topics will also take place during the High Level Segment. All stakeholders, including international government organisations, members of the business community, indigenous people and non-governmental organisations, will be invited to participate in this dialogue.

The Government of the Netherlands has dispatched the official invitation letters (see annex) to the respective ministers of Environment, Agriculture and Forests.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

To: All National Focal Points to the CBD



The Hague, 18 January 2002

Excellency,

Within the framework of the United Nations the Government of the Netherlands has the honour to host the Sixth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-6). The Conference will be held from 7 to 19 April 2002 in the Hague, the Netherlands, as you will know from the Secretariat's letter of 15 October 2001. The High Level Segment of the Conference will take place on 17 and 18 April 2002. Furthermore the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (ICCP-3) will take place at the same venue in The Hague from 22 to 26 April 2002.

I hope that you will attend the High Level Segment of COP-6, as we will be discussing important issues regarding the progress being made with the implementation of the Convention, for example the resourcing of biodiversity and capacity-building as well as the furthering of forest biodiversity.

It is my intention to organise a Ministerial Round Table discussion (ministers only) on 17 April. With the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg taking place in September 2002, we have come to a crucial point. I believe that we should send out a clear political signal about the role and contribution of the Convention on Biological Diversity in achieving sustainable development. During this Round Table, therefore, I would like to discuss our concrete input to the World Summit. Another important issue I would like to discuss in the framework of furthering sustainable forest management is an action-oriented approach to come to results in the field of forests and biodiversity and the contribution to this process of an enhanced co-operation between CBD, UNFF and CPF. In this respect an element we have to review is the financing to achieve sustainable forest management world-wide.

For a successful implementation of the Convention, the involvement of all relevant stakeholders is essential. For that reason, a Multi Stakeholder Dialogue on relevant topics will also take place during the High Level Segment. All stakeholders, including international government organisations, members of the business community, indigenous peoples and non-governmental organisations, will be invited to participate in this dialogue. I believe that participation by a large number of ministers would underscore the importance of such a dialogue, and thus promote the implementation of the Convention.

Ten years after the Summit on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, we must now determine the future course of the Convention on Biological Diversity. I believe the above topics for discussion are important examples of what this convention has achieved and yet aims to achieve in the coming decade in order to ensure sustainable development of our natural resources. It is therefore my sincere wish that you will decide to attend the High Level Segment and Ministerial Round Table in the Hague next spring.

The High Level Segment programme includes a reception and dinner which I will be hosting on Wednesday 17 April 2002. This dinner will give us the opportunity to continue our discussions in a more informal manner.

Because the Convention on Biological Diversity deals with a broad scope of subjects, such as forests, agriculture, genetic resources and nature management, it is important that each country is

politically represented by all the ministers who are responsible for these fields in their country. That is why this invitation is sent to each minister with responsibility for the environment, agriculture and forests.

As requested by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in its letter of 15 October 2001, your credentials and the credentials of your delegation should be submitted to the Secretariat as soon as possible. I look forward to seeing you in the Hague in April.

Yours sincerely,

Geke Faber
The State Secretary of Agriculture,
Nature Management and Fisheries