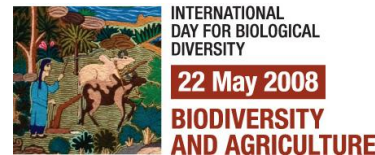




Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Ref.:SCBD/ITS/LC/MC/66658

4 March 2009

NOTIFICATION

Workshop for Least Developed Countries on the Fourth National Report

Dear Madame/Sir,

The Conference of the Parties, in its decision VIII/14, stated that Parties shall submit the fourth national report by 30 March 2009. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to facilitate the support to Parties, promote capacity development for the preparation of national reports, as well as to organize regional training workshops with a view to promoting best practices and exchange of experience in the preparation of the fourth national reports.

As you know, the preparation of fourth national reports by the deadline of 30 March, or soon thereafter, is very crucial for the process of reviewing progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target, development of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and preparation for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. At the same time, we are aware that some countries, particularly the least developed countries, have capacity constraints. I am therefore pleased to announce that, with the generous support of Norway, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Environment Facility, a Capacity Development Workshop will be held from **4 to 8 May 2009** in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**, for the least developed countries, mostly from Africa, to assist them in finalizing the preparation of the fourth national report.

The workshop will provide an opportunity to exchange experiences in the preparation of the fourth national report, as well as on the use of some tools in this regard. Some countries, among the least developed countries, that have already finalized their fourth national reports will be invited to share their experience and expertise with countries that are still finalizing their reports. In addition, a number of resource persons will participate to provide technical expertise for reviewing and finalizing the reports.

Accordingly, I would like to invite you to nominate an officer or expert responsible for preparing your country's fourth national report, no later than **4 April 2009**. In doing so, I would like to emphasize that the nominee should be the officer or expert deeply involved in the preparation of the fourth national report and in a position to revise and/or finalize the report within six weeks after the workshop. To make this workshop as productive and useful as possible, all participating countries are required to provide to the Secretariat a draft of their fourth national report by **18 April** and to also bring this draft to the workshop for review.

I look forward to receiving your nomination and, more importantly, your country's fourth national report soon. We thank you very much for your support and cooperation.

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

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

To CBD National Focal Points of the following Least Developed Countries:
Angola, Cape Verde, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho,
Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe,
Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia



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