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5 April 2012

NOTIFICATION

CBD Secretariat activities at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, including the Rio Conventions Pavilion

Dear Madam/Sir,

I write to inform you of activities that will be undertaken by the CBD Secretariat from 13-22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, during and in the lead up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, Rio+20). In doing so, I invite you to participate in these activities and, should you be in a position to do so, to provide financial support.

The UNCSD will shape the sustainable development agenda for the coming years and will provide an important opportunity of outreach and dialogue to assure inclusion of biodiversity in the mainstream of economic and development strategy. Coinciding with the twentieth anniversary of the Rio Conventions, the conference also provides an appropriate moment to consider the evolution of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the successes achieved in the past 20 years, and to look forward to the decades ahead on the basis of implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the outcomes of Rio.

To support this dialogue, the Rio Conventions Pavilion will be convened in the margins of the conference in a joint initiative of the Secretariats of the three Rio Conventions and the Global Environment Facility, and involving numerous partners active in their implementation. Implemented first at the margins of the COP10 of the CBD in Nagoya, and subsequently at each meeting of the COP of UNFCCC and UNCCD, an objective of the Pavilion is to promote synergies in the implementation of the Rio Conventions by providing a coordinated platform for awareness-raising and information sharing about linkages in science, policy and practice between biodiversity, climate change and desertification/land degradation. At Rio, the Pavilion will also serve to highlight the importance of the Conventions as agreed frameworks for sustainable development in the context of implementing commitments that will be adopted at Rio+20.

Operating from 13-22 June 2012, the Rio Conventions Pavilion will host a programme of events aligned with the agenda of Rio+20 and addressing themes that cut across the objectives of the three conventions, including oceans, land, forests, cities, gender, and indigenous and local communities. A dedicated website has been established to keep Parties and partner organisations

To: CBD National Focal Points and Relevant Organizations



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informed about the development of the activities within the Pavilion (www.riopavilion.org). This includes an evolving programme for events and issues to be addressed, as well as a concept note that has been guiding the preparation of the Pavilion. I would like to take this opportunity to invite Parties who wish to host events at the Pavilion to submit proposals by 27 April 2012 using the template provided in the Partners Planning Guide, also available on the Pavilion website. Please note that time slots for events are limited. Aside from participation in events, several Parties have also expressed interest in providing financial support to enable the implementation of the Pavilion in Rio, not least the Government of Brazil that will provide considerable support towards the physical infrastructure required. I would like to extend my thanks to these countries. I would like to invite all Parties and partners who are in a position to do so to consider contributing financial support to this purpose.

In addition, as part of the multi-year programme of work adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision X/9, at its fourth meeting the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation will prepare a message for submission to the UNCSD on the role of biodiversity for sustainable development. In the margins of the conference and associated events taking place in Rio, the Secretariat will also take opportunity to brief participants, including legislators, on the Nagoya Protocol as an instrument of sustainable development and to encourage accession and ratification by Parties. The Secretariat has applied to undertake side-events in the official programme of the conference and will communicate on this, once confirmed.

The Senior Environmental Affairs Officer, Outreach and Major Groups of the CBD Secretariat, Mr. Neil Pratt, stands ready to provide more information on the CBD Secretariat activities at Rio+20. He may be contacted at telephone number +1 514 287 7007; email: neil.pratt@cbd.int.

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

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary