



**CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY**

**PRESS RELEASE**

For use of the media only;  
Not an official document.

**Citizens of the world invited to participate in virtual  
conference and help to sustain life on earth**

**THE VIRTUAL CURITIBA BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE**

**January - March 2006 - <http://2010.biodiv.org>**

**ACHIEVING THE 2010 TARGET!**

**CURITIBA – 19 January 2006.** Never before in human history has the rate of biodiversity loss been so great. The rate of loss of biodiversity now exceeds 100 times natural rates. For some experts we are on the eve of the greatest extinction crisis. Humans are changing environments to the point that no single species will be spared.

Faced with this frightening reality, 110 Heads of States and Governments committed themselves, in 2002, at the second earth summit in Johannesburg, to “achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on earth.” This was reconfirmed by 154 Heads of States at the 2005 Summit in New York.

Achieving this will require an unprecedented effort. If the world is to ensure its future, it has to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target. This will require engagement of not only governments, but all stakeholders and therefore all citizens of the world. Faced with the unprecedented challenge, no one can afford to assume observer status. It is for this reason that on the first day of his appointment, Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity, issued a statement to the citizens of the world calling them to combine their efforts in order to fulfill this commitment taken by all Heads of States of the world.

At a press conference with the Minister of the Environment for Brazil, H.E.M. Minister Marina Silva, on the preparation of the International Ministerial Curitiba Biodiversity Conference to be held in March, Dr. Djoghlaif announced the official launch of the *Virtual Curitiba Biodiversity Conference: Achieving the 2010 target*. This virtual conference focuses on achieving the 2010 biodiversity target. The conference will give voice to citizens as to how we, as a global family, can

achieve the 2010 biodiversity target, for the benefit of current and future generations.

In launching the conference, Ahmed Djoghlaif, the new Executive Secretary of the Convention, declared that "all citizens of the world are encourage to participate in this conference and offer their views which will be submitted to the more than 100 ministers expected to attend on 27-28 march this year the International Curitiba Biodiversity Conference."

Addressing a gathering of journalists Mr. Djoghlaif stressed that "We are offering the citizens of the world a unique opportunity not only to make their views known but more importantly to shape the course of action of this upcoming meeting and therefore contribute to the design of our common future and the future of our children."

"It must be noted that a study tour of the headquarters of the Secretariat in Montreal, Canada and of the headquarters of UNEP in Nairobi will be offered for the best contribution to this innovative forum." declared Dr. Djoghlaif.

**Information for Journalists:**

The text of Dr Djoghlaif's statement to the citizens of the world can be found on the website of the CBD at: The statement can be found on the website of the CBD: <http://www.biodiv.org>

The *Virtual Curitiba Biodiversity Conference: Achieving the 2010 Target* is accessible online at: <http://2010.biodiv.org>

For more information, please contact David Ainsworth +1 514 287 7025; mobile +1 514 833 0196; email [david.ainsworth@biodiv.org](mailto:david.ainsworth@biodiv.org)