



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

PRESS RELEASE

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A new era of implementation of the Convention on all life on Earth is born in Curitiba at the largest ever gathering of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Curitiba, 31 March 2006 – 4,000 delegates from around the world have agreed on a road-map to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, in line with the agreement reached by 110 Heads of State and Government at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002. To achieve this target, 122 Ministers in charge of the environment have had, for the first time, an interactive dialogue which facilitated the adoption of 30 major decisions, including the agreement on the negotiating framework and firm timeframe to finalize by 2010 the negotiation on an international regime for access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources. The suggested international regime, also decided by the 110 Heads of State in Johannesburg, will make a major contribution to ensuring the implementation of the third objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which is aimed at promoting fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources. The largest ever gathering of biodiversity experts in the world's most biodiversity-rich country also recommended the celebration in 2010 of the International Year on Biodiversity.

“A new era of enhanced implementation of the Convention is born in Curitiba. After the Rio Spirit in 1992, the spirit of Curitiba has opened the way to translating the objectives of the convention into reality through an enhanced phase of implementation,” said Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention. Seven major institutions, representing a capacity of half a billion dollars a year, have decided to join forces for the implementation of the Curitiba outcomes.

“Some of the greatest treasures left on the planet are the fragile ecosystems of islands,” said Mr. Djoghlaif. “I am very pleased of the Micronesia Challenges, the initiative launched in Curitiba by the President of Palau and the Vice President of Micronesia and aimed at placing 30% of the marine areas and 20% of the forest across Micronesia under environmental protection. I call on other leaders of the world to support the Global Island Partnership.”

For the first time, a dialogue with Ministers and business leaders with more than 300 participants led to the adoption of a decision aimed at engaging the private sector for the protection of life on earth. The Curitiba agreement was reached with the participation of the largest ever representation of civil society at a biodiversity-related meeting. Some 1,112 representatives of the civil society, as well as 340 representatives of the indigenous and local communities, attended this meeting. A ministerial women and biodiversity network was established by the 22 women ministers attending the meeting. Some 1,500 children invited HE Luiz Ignácio Lula da Silva to transmit their fears and concerns to the next G8 Summit, to be held in July 2006 in St Petersburg in the Russia Federation. For the first time 10 heads of agencies decided to join force for achieving the 2010 biodiversity target.

“We need to engage all segments and actors of civil society for winning the battle for the protection of life on Earth, and the Curitiba agreement has been to that effect a landmark event,” said Mr Djoghla

The next meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention will be in Germany in 2008. Mr. Djoghla said that “During the years ahead, I look forward to working under the leadership of the host of 30% of the biodiversity of the world and in partnership with Germany towards achieving the promise made by the Heads of State to reduce substantially the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010.”

Notes to Editors.

The 8th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 8) took place in Curitiba, Brazil, from 20 to 31 March. www.biodiv.org

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