



CBD

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

PRESS RELEASE

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Biodiversity and Climate Change

PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CBD AND ICAO

Montreal – 19 February 2007

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) was signed today in Montreal at the margins of the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Liability and Redress in the Context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety by Mr. Taïeb Cherif, Secretary General of ICAO and Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, the Executive Secretary of the Convention.

The agreement formalizes the relationship and cooperation between the two institutions which has existed on an ad hoc basis since the establishment of the Secretariat of the Convention in 1996. Areas covered under this agreement will include the use of meeting facilities, the recruitment of interpreters, reproduction and printing services, travel and security services, throughout which ICAO as the lead agency will provide.

In signing the Memorandum of Understanding, Mr. Taïeb Cherif stated that he was “extremely pleased to enter into this legal agreement with the CBD as it would enhance the relationship between two United Nations agencies, on administrative and conference services matters, as well as on substantive issues related to the environment.”

Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif stated, “I am extremely pleased that an agreement has been signed between the CBD and ICAO as the lead agency, thereby enhancing the cooperation between the two sister institutions.”

Information for Journalists:**International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations and was created with the signing in Chicago, on 7 December 1944, of the Convention on International Civil Aviation. ICAO is the permanent body charged with the administration of the principles laid out in the Convention. It sets the standards for aviation safety, security, efficiency and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection, and encourages their implementation. ICAO's membership comprises 189 Contracting States. Its headquarters are in Montreal and it has regional offices in Bangkok, Cairo, Dakar, Lima, Mexico City, Nairobi and Paris.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The Convention on Biological Diversity is one of the most broadly subscribed international environmental treaties in the world. Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, it currently has 190 Parties—189 States and the European Community—who have committed themselves to its three main goals: the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The Secretariat of the Convention is located in Montreal.

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