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CBD's Ahmed Djoghlaflaf welcomes Zoellick appointment at the World Bank

Montreal, 26 June 2007

CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaflaf welcomed the appointment of Mr. Robert B. Zoellick as President of the World Bank. The decision to appoint Mr. Zoellick was made yesterday by the unanimous vote of the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors.

"Mr. Zoellick has demonstrated the leadership and extensive experience in dealing with complex international issues" said Mr. Djoghlaflaf. "That makes him an excellent choice for this post."

The appointment comes at an important moment for the Convention, as it approaches the target date 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 target was endorsed by world leaders at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 and reaffirmed at the World Summit in New York in 2005.

Together with the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank has been the largest multilateral source of funding specialized in investment projects for biodiversity, with other operations having a direct bearing on its conservation and sustainable use. The need of mainstreaming biodiversity at the highest level is of critical importance to the implementation of the Convention and the achievement of its objectives and targets.

"Mr. Zoellick's arrival at the head of this important institution will mark a new era in the relationship between the World Bank and the Convention. We look forward to expanding cooperation with the World Bank", said Mr. Djoghlaflaf.