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Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

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International Day for Biological Diversity



Biodiversity and Climate Change

SECRETARIAT MARKS INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY BY STANDING UP IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE WORLD

Montreal, 18 October 2007 – In solidarity with the millions of people in the world suffering from poverty and in response to the call of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, “To Stand Up and Speak out”, the 350 participants attending the fifth meeting of Ad Hoc Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, being held in Montreal, as well as the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity yesterday stood up for one minute to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, under the theme *People Living in Poverty as Agents of Change: 20th Anniversary of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty*. The Pledge was read to the participants in the two sub-working groups by Co-Chairs Ms. Nicola Breier from Germany and Mr. Deon Stewart from the Bahamas, respectively.

A special event was also organized by the 70 members of the Secretariat staff, at which the pledge was read by Mr. Ositadinma Anaedu, representative of Nigeria and a Vice-President of the Conference of the Parties. The Pledge read provides that: “Today, and every day, we stand up and speak out against poverty. We are millions of voices standing in solidarity to say: keep the Promise and end poverty now”. In reading the Pledge, Mr. Ositadinma Anaedu stated that “biodiversity is a powerful tool for poverty eradication and the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity is the response to fulfill the promise to end poverty”.

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty has been observed every year since 1993, when the General Assembly, by resolution 47/196, designated this day to promote awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries, particularly in developing countries—a need that has become a development priority.

At the Millennium Summit, world leaders committed themselves to cutting by half by the year 2015 the number of people living in extreme poverty - people whose income is less than one dollar a day.

The theme for this year’s International Day for the Eradication of Poverty -- **“Working together out of poverty”** -- highlights the need for a truly global anti-poverty alliance, one in which both developed and developing countries participate actively.

