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Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

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LETTER OF INTENT SIGNED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS AND THE CBD SECRETARIAT

Montreal – 7 December 2007

With the aim of assisting developing countries in their efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, a four-year framework of cooperation between the Government of the Netherlands and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity was signed today.

Promoting a programmatic approach in support of activities aimed at enhancing implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, the Letter of Intent covers the period from 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2011 and supports the implementation of relevant decisions adopted by the last Conference of the Parties held in Curitiba, Brazil in March 2006.

The Letter of Intent has four main areas of cooperation:

- Engagement of the private sector – to mainstream biodiversity into economic sectors to achieve 2010 targets through general dialogue, agenda setting, enhancement of the business and biodiversity 2010 challenge, developing tools to involve the private sector in market creation and payments for ecosystem services particularly in relation to climate change.
- Ecoregional approach – to promote integral area-based approaches that take both ecological and socio-economic interests for the lasting protection of terrestrial and marine biodiversity, thus contributing to poverty alleviation, and to help implement decisions on ecosystem approach, ecological networks and sustainable use, with focus on the role of the private sector.
- Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) – to create understanding and support from society for implementation of CBD policies in a systematic way through, for example, the sharing of experiences at regional workshops, regional training workshops for journalists, initiation of programmes to strengthen formal and informal education on biodiversity, including through linkages with the Decade for Education for Sustainable Development and outreach materials on biodiversity and business for the private sector.
- Scenario development – to better inform the public and political debate on reaching the biodiversity targets through the increased use of regional and/or global models for ex-ante evaluation of policy options, which intends to support the work of the CBD on this aspect of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

Signed during the enhanced phase of implementation of the Convention, the Letter of Intent comes at a time when the international community is redoubling its efforts to achieve the 2010 Biodiversity Target.

Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention, said, “The signature today of this four year programmatic framework of cooperation is the first of its kind and serves as a model of collaboration between the Secretariat and its partners that should be emulated. Indeed it shows



the way ahead in allowing the secretariat to plan in advance through a long term and strategic approach its mandated activities.” He added, “With a focus on reducing poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, this agreement further highlights the importance of biodiversity and poverty alleviation for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.”

Mr. André van der Zande, Secretary-General of the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, stated, “As host of the meeting which adopted the 2010 Biodiversity Target, the Netherlands is committed to play its role in the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. This agreement translates this commitment into concrete support for actions that are a priority for both the CBD and the Netherlands.”