



# Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

## COMMUNIQUE

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### **DIALOGUE WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA IN NEW YORK ON THE PREPARATIONS FOR NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

*Montreal - 25 March 2008.* In the context of continued dialogue between Parties to the Convention and heads of regional groups and the Secretariat, a delegation from Antigua and Barbuda, which holds the chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China at United Nations Headquarters in New York for 2008, paid a visit to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal on 20 March 2008. The delegation consisted of H.E. Dr. John Ashe, Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Conrod Hunte, Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and Ms. Melesha Banhan, Environment Officer, Ministry of Tourism, Aviation, Culture and Environment in Antigua and Barbuda.

During this visit, the delegation discussed preparations for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to be held in Bonn from 19 to 30 May 2008, including the High-Level Segment of the meeting. Particular attention was devoted to major issues of interest to the Group of 77 and China, including the promotion of regional and subregional collaboration for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention.

In his address to the staff of the Secretariat, Ambassador Ashe stated “my visit to the SCBD today is a testimony of the importance attached to the speedy implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the success of the forthcoming meeting of the Parties in Bonn as it will take place in less than two years before the end of the 2010 Johannesburg biodiversity target as well as the Curitiba commitment to finalize the negotiation of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing no later than 2010”.

Mr. Djoghlaflaf, the Executive Secretary of the Convention, stated that “open and permanent dialogues with the heads of regional groups are crucial to the fulfilment of the mandate of the Secretariat and would like to pay tribute to the Chairman of the Group of 77 for paying a visit to the Secretariat on the preparations for the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which will without a doubt be a landmark event in the life of the Convention. I hope today’s visit is the beginning of a tradition of continued dialogue and collaboration with the Chairman of the Group of 77 on the Convention on Biological Diversity”.



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