



COMMUNIQUÉ

-Biodiversity elevated to the top of the G8 environmental dialogue

In concluding their meeting held in Syracuse, Italy, from 22 to 24 April 2009, the G8 Ministers of the Environment with eleven of their partners adopted, at the initiative of the host country, the “*Carta di Siracusa*” on Biodiversity.

This landmark document was adopted by the Ministers of the Environment of the G8 as well as the Ministers, or their representatives, of Australia, Brazil, China, the Czech Republic and Sweden as the current and upcoming Presidencies of the European Union, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, and the international organizations participating in the Syracuse meeting;

In her concluding remarks, Ms. Stefania Prestigiacomo, Italian Minister for Environment, Land and Sea, stated that the “*Carta di Siracusa*” on Biodiversity is of high political significance because it was adopted not only by the G8 Ministers but also by the G8 plus forum. Following the adoption in March 2007 of the “Potsdam initiative – Biological Diversity 2010” and the adoption in May 2008 of the “Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity”, the “*Carta di Siracusa*” on Biodiversity has elevated biodiversity as a permanent theme of the environmental dialogue of the G8.

“By its content and its inclusiveness, the ‘*Carta di Siracusa*’ on Biodiversity marks a new era in the environmental dialogue of the G8 and their partners,” said Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. He added that “the commitment as reflected in the ‘*Carta di Siracusa*’ of the G8, Parties and Governments, and their partners to work together for the completion of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing by 2010 and finalize a post-2010 biodiversity strategy should be applauded.” Participants also committed to make the best use of opportunities arising from the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity and the high-level session on biodiversity during the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly, thus stressing the key role of biodiversity in the international political agenda.

The participants entrusted the Chair to forward the “*Carta di Siracusa*” on Biodiversity to the G8 Summit focusing on the following main elements:

- Biodiversity and ecosystems are essential for life, human well-being and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals
- Biodiversity has economic value and can contribute to efforts to address the global economic crisis; and
- It is urgent to identify a common path toward the post-2010 framework on biodiversity.

Background information on the meeting of the G8 Ministers of the Environment may be found at www.g8ambiente.it, while the full text of the “*Carta di Siracusa*” on Biodiversity is available at the following address:

http://www.g8ambiente.it/public/images/20090424/doceng/09_04_24_Carta%20di%20Siracusa%20on%20Biodiversity.pdf