



COMMUNIQUÉ

VISIT TO THE SECRETARIAT BY NORWEGIAN DELEGATION

Montreal, 15 May 2009. A delegation from Norway visited the Secretariat on 14-15 May 2009 to discuss a range of issues, including, in particular, preparations for the sixth Trondheim Conference on biological diversity, which will be held in February next year and will coincide with the International Year of Biodiversity and will lead up to the high-level meeting on biodiversity during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly in September and the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in October.

The delegation consisted of Ms. Tone Solhaug of the Ministry of Environment of Norway, Mr. Peter Schei, Director of the Fridtjof Nansen Institute and former Chair of the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and initiator of the Trondheim conferences on biological diversity, and Mr. Finn Katerås, Head of the International Section of the Directorate for Nature Management.

Norway has been a staunch supporter of the Convention since its adoption, and the five previous Trondheim conferences have provided a valuable forum for scientific discussions that have fed into the policy-making processes under the Convention.

The visit offered the Secretariat an opportunity to brief the Norwegian delegation on the major challenges ahead in the next two years, particularly with regard to the agreed target of achieving a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity by 2010.

Following the meeting, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif said that: "The sixth Trondheim Conference will offer a unique opportunity the biodiversity family to make a contribution to the 2010 biodiversity agenda, including the meetings of Heads of State and Government that will be held in the course of the year."

Mr. Schei said that: "The sixth Trondheim Conference will focus on the post-2010 target. There is a need for new ways of operating. One of the key issues is to link up with people outside the biodiversity community and impress upon them the value of biodiversity and the ecosystem services that it provides so that they become engaged in the efforts to halt the loss of biodiversity."

Ms. Solhaug added that: "The discussions were most helpful for our delegation and gave us a better perspective of the challenges ahead and the work that needs to be accomplished in 2010, which promises to be a defining year in the life of the Convention."
