



COMMUNIQUÉ

BRAINSTORMING SESSION ON BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY

A two-day informal brainstorming session was held at CBD Secretariat in Montreal on 14-15 September 2009 with a view to advancing the decisions VIII/17 and IX/26 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on engagement with the private sector. The meeting was held with the participation of the COP Triple Presidency (Brazil, Germany and Japan) and with the participation of Canada and the Netherlands. The meeting was convened under the four-year letter of intent between the Netherlands and the Secretariat with a view of coordinating the ongoing initiative on business and biodiversity undertaken in the context of the implementation of the Convention.

In welcoming the participants, Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention, paid tribute to the representatives of the COP Triple Presidency in promoting the engagement of business and biodiversity as well as tie the host country and Netherlands for their continued support. He reaffirmed the Convention's commitment to strengthen business partnerships, with all stakeholders, particularly with GEF and other financial mechanisms. The outcome of the governmental consultation was shared during the second part of the meeting with the representatives of the international organizations.

On the second day the group was joined by the business community – the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the Nippon Keidanren Committee on Nature Conservation, the Canadian Business and Biodiversity Initiative, the Lasting Initiative for Earth (LIFE); non-governmental organizations: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade (FAST); and international organizations: the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Division of Technology, Industry and Economics of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-DTIE).

Recognizing the economic values of biodiversity and ecosystems services, the brainstorming session was held as an informal preparatory meeting for the “Third Business and 2010 Biodiversity Challenge Conference” convened by the Convention Secretariat in collaboration with UNEP, which will be held in Jakarta from 30 November to 3 December 2009.

“The Government of Germany is pleased to chair this important meeting and would like to reiterate the necessity to advance a common strategy,” said Nicola Breier, chair of the meeting and representative of the German presidency.

“The Government of Japan is very happy to host the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit which will be held with the engagement of all stakeholders including the business community”, said Mr. Toshio Torii, Director of the Biodiversity Strategy Office of the Ministry of the Environment of Japan.

Participants agreed on a timetable defining the next steps, which included elements of a strategy to advance the business and biodiversity agenda post-2010 and reaffirmed their commitment to take to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties a meaningful and effective business and biodiversity initiative.

Montreal, 16 September 2009