



COMMUNIQUÉ

G-77 Ministers Pay Special Tribute to CBD Secretariat's Leading Role in South-South Cooperation

Montreal, 25 September 2009 – At their thirty-third annual meeting, held on 25 September 2009 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 adopted a ministerial declaration welcoming the convening of the high-level special event to be held on 20 September 2010 in conjunction with the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly to mark the International Year of Biodiversity. They invited the 130 members of the Group to be represented at the highest level possible at this unique event in the history of the United Nations. They expressed their support for the successful outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in Nagoya, Japan, from 19 to 29 October 2010.

The Ministers also welcomed decision IX/25 adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, on the elaboration of a multi-year plan of South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth meeting. The Ministers expressed their support to the ongoing work of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity towards the elaboration of this multi-year plan in close association with the Chair of the Group of 77 and welcomed the convening of consultative preparatory meetings of the Steering Committee to be held in Montreal on 29 October 2009 followed by another in Khartoum in early 2010.

In his opening statement, the Chairman of the Ministerial Meeting, H.E. Dr. Ghazi Salahuldeen, head of delegation of Sudan, stated in the presence of high-level representatives and ministers of G-77 member States and special guests including the President of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations and the Assistant Administrator and Regional Bureau Director for Africa of the United Nations Development Programme, that “we also welcomed the decision by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its ninth meeting for the elaboration of a multi-year plan of South-South Cooperation on biodiversity for development to be submitted to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. This is an important joint initiative by the Group of 77 and Convention Secretariat launched in 2006. In this context, I wish to put on record the commendable efforts by Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the CBD Secretariat, towards the elaboration of a multi-year plan of South-South Cooperation in close collaboration with us, the Group of 77.”

At the same time, the Ministerial Meeting paid a special tribute to the Executive Secretary of the Group of 77, H.E. Mourad Ahmia, who was honoured on behalf of G-77 Minister by the Chairman of the Ministerial Meeting with an achievement award marking the forty-fifth anniversary of the G-77 in recognition of his outstanding performance, his continued commitment and dedication to the goals and objectives of the Group of 77.



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Mr. Ahmia stated that: “As the Group of 77 celebrates its forty-fifth anniversary in the run-up to the Third South Summit to be held next year, we look forward to working in partnership with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in our common journey for Nagoya and beyond so as to enhance South-South Cooperation on development issues related to biodiversity and promoting joint action on mitigation and reversal of biodiversity loss in developing countries, the largest repositories of existing biological resources on the planet.”

The Ministers also paid special tribute to Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif by acknowledging his leading efforts in promoting South-South Cooperation and reiterated their support to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Dr. Djoghlaif applauded the commitment of the Ministers of the G-77 to the success of the special high-level event at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, stating that it “will be a historic event for the United Nations and for the biodiversity family as a whole. The adoption of the multi-year plan of action on South-South Cooperation on biodiversity for development for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity will be a major contribution to the success of the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit, the post-2010 targets and the new Strategic Plan for the Convention.”
