



COMMUNIQUÉ

Republic of Korea a leader for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development

Montreal, 24 May 2011 — The third expert meeting on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development was held in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 18 to 20 May 2011 with the objective of further developing the Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development as adopted by the Group of 77 and China and welcomed by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting, held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010. The multi-year plan of action was submitted as a modality for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Hosted by the National Institute on Biological Resources (NIBR), the collaborative centre of the Convention on Biological Diversity on South-South cooperation, the meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Jose Luis Sutera of Argentina, representing the Chairman of the G-77 in New York, and by Ambassador Conrod Hunte of Antigua and Barbuda as past Chair of the G-77.

In his message to participants, Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Secretary General of the Rio + 20 Conference said: “The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations is ready to support the CBD in advancing the outcomes of this meeting and in facilitating the adoption of the South-South Plan of Action on Biodiversity.”

Welcoming participants, Minister Lee Manee of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea reiterated his country’s commitment to play its role for the implementation of the South-South Plan of Action and announced the decision of his Government to contribute up to US\$ 250,000 to the trust fund to be established under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development.

Reading out a message from the G-77 Chair in New York, Mr. Mourad Ahmia, Executive Secretary of the Group of 77, said: “The CBD Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation is a solid platform for regional and global initiatives on biodiversity to gather technical and financial support. Our main concern in this gathering is to reflect on the means of implementation of the Plan as well as other resources that will contribute to its execution.”

Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, stated: “The time has come for South-South cooperation to play its full role in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. It is fitting that Argentina, as a member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and as Chair of the G-77, oversees this key evolution in the 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. The critical contribution of the Government of the Republic of Korea to this Plan, by hosting this meeting, seconding a staff member to the Convention Secretariat and by announcing today a substantial financial contribution to

the suggested GEF Trust Fund is a demonstration of the country's commitment to be a leader on South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development.”

A joint meeting of experts and members of the Convention's Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity, hosted by the NIBR, was also convened to enhance the scientific community in support to the implementation of the Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation to be submitted for adoption at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in India in October 2012.

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