



COMMUNIQUÉ

Finland renews support for the Convention's gender mainstreaming efforts

Montreal, 4 July 2011 – The Government of Finland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has renewed its support for the gender mainstreaming efforts of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Through a letter dated 21 June 2011, Finland announced that it will contribute 250,000 euros to the Convention's Special Voluntary Trust Fund. The funding will support implementation of the Convention's Gender Plan of Action and activities to mainstream gender in the three Rio conventions (the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification) and the Global Environment Facility during the period 2011-2012.

This renewed financial support will enable the Joint Coordination Group on Gender established by the secretariats of the three Rio conventions to work towards the goal of lifting by 2020 gender as a cross cutting priority and to ensure that it is integrated into thematic issues across the Rio conventions and the GEF, to achieve the long-term objectives of the three conventions.

Heidi Hautala, Minister for International Development of Finland said: "We are very pleased to see that the three Rio conventions are now working together in a coordinated manner on gender mainstreaming activities and look forward to seeing some concrete results and impacts of their efforts. Finland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs finds that its support to CBD's innovative and cooperative work on gender equality provides basis for long term achievements in the field of environmental decision making."

Finland's national focal point for the Convention on Biological Diversity, Marina von Weissenberg of the Ministry of the Environment said: "The gender issue is a crucial horizontal issue and key for successful implementation of the Aichi targets and for revising national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Biodiversity is essential for securing livelihoods and reducing poverty. Ecosystem services such as health, livelihoods and well-being are essential services for women, given their involvement in collecting and producing food, fuel, medicinal remedies, and therefore the needs of women should be mainstreamed on all levels of society."

Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity said: "This contribution of Finland is key to the successful implementation of the Nagoya biodiversity compact and in mainstreaming gender into national biodiversity priorities. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Finland for this important contribution."
