



COMMUNIQUÉ

Towards the Expo 2012 Yeosu Korea: The Living Ocean and Coast

Montreal, 19 October 2011 – The contribution of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to Expo 2012 Yeosu Korea: The Living Ocean and Coast was discussed in Seoul on 14 October 2011 at a meeting between Mr. Samuel Koo, United Nations Co-Commissioner-General for the Expo, and Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Also in attendance was Mr. Zaw T. Win of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Expo 2012 Yeosu Korea aims to shed light on humankind's knowledge and advancement of technology related to marine and coastal biodiversity and identify ways to resolve challenges facing oceans.

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity was first invited to participate in the Expo Pavilion in December 2007 through the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Montreal. Since then, the Secretariat's participation has been formalized through formal correspondence with the Government of the Republic of Korea as well as through planning meetings held with Korean officials in Montreal and Seoul. In April 2011, the Secretariat was invited to a second planning meeting and a field-visit to Yeosu, organized by the Expo Organizing Committee, together with representatives from over 100 countries and some ten United Nations/international organizations. Mr. Djoghlaif has also been serving as a member of the Expo Steering Committee for selecting best practices, and the Review Committee for the Yeosu Declaration.

In relation to the global celebration of the 2012 International Day for Biological Diversity and its theme Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, the Secretariat is focusing on effectively increasing public awareness, particularly of the younger generation, on the importance of marine and coastal biodiversity. In this regard, the contribution of Mr. Jean Lemire, Ambassador for *The Green Wave* initiative under the Convention, was discussed, as he would be invited for on-line weekly communications with Pavilion participants as he sails around the world on his "1000-days for the Planet" expedition.

Mr. Djoghlaif also invited Mr. Koo for a possible collaboration in the World Ocean Summit being convened by *The Economist*, in collaboration with the Convention Secretariat, in Singapore from 22 to 24 February 2012. Mr. Djoghlaif also informed Mr. Koo of the high-level CBD event at the Expo, tentatively scheduled for 20 June 2012, to be convened in collaboration with Japan and India, the Presidents of the tenth and eleventh meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and the Monaco Blue Initiative as well as other partners. The outcome of this event will provide important inputs to the discussions of the high-level-segment panel at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Hyderabad, India, from 8 to 19 October 2012.

Mr. Djoghlaif emphasized that 2012, the second year of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity and a year that includes the Yeosu Expo and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, should provide a critical turning point in engaging public and political support in addressing urgent challenges facing marine biodiversity conservation and consolidating our common efforts toward achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets on marine and coastal biodiversity, in particular targets 6, 10 and 11.
