



CBD

# Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

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22 May 2007  
International Day for Biological Diversity



Biodiversity and Climate Change

## STATEMENT

by

**AHMED DJOGLAF, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY**

to the

**TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE  
GOVERNING COUNCIL/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL  
ENVIRONMENT FORUM (GC-24/GMEF)**

**Nairobi, 7 February 2007**

**Please check against delivery**



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Mr. President,  
Distinguished members of the Governing Council,  
Distinguished delegates,

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment called for unprecedented efforts to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target. The 4,000 participants, including 95 ministers, who attended the eight meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Curitiba in March 2006, responded to this call for urgent action by launching a new era of enhanced phase of implementation of the three objectives of the Convention. The Secretary-General of the United Nations has also responded to this call by recommending to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session the integration of the 2010 biodiversity target into the Millennium Development Goals. The United Nations General Assembly also responded to this call in adopting in December last year its decision proclaiming 2010 as the International Year on Biodiversity.

I also wish to extend my deep appreciation to the President of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Honourable Marina Silva, Minister of the Environment of Brazil, who was instrumental in this great achievement. The Champion of the Earth prize awarded to the President by UNEP is a recognition of her unique contribution in advancing the biodiversity agenda at both the national and international levels.

The enhanced phase of implementation calls for an in-depth review of implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan, which includes a synthesis and analysis of the obstacles of implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). To this end, the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Implementation of the Convention will be held at the headquarters of UNESCO in July this year. The Secretariat has launched a number of initiatives in support of this, including:

- Renewed efforts to encourage Parties to submit their third national reports. So far, 111 Parties have done so. Forty Parties are being encouraged to finalize their NBSAPs and others to revise them. Sixteen countries submitted their NBSAPs in 2006;
- National biodiversity profile is being finalized and data from the national reports and NBSAPs, including that related to implementation of 2010 target goals, is being synthesized and analysed;
- A series of training modules on various aspects of NBSAPs are being prepared in collaboration with the United Nations University (UNU) and UNEP;
- The clearing house mechanism is being developed to facilitate access by Parties to tools and mechanisms for implementation and to enhance exchange of experiences in implementation;
- A series of subregional NBSAP capacity-building workshops is being planned with the aim to support the enhanced capacity of Parties to develop, implement, and evaluate NBSAPs, and to integrate biodiversity planning across sectors;
- Cooperation is being strengthened with partners including UNDP, UNEP, the World Bank, the United Nations regional economic commissions, the UNEP/UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative and the wider Poverty and Environment Partnership.

The enhanced phase of implementation calls for an enhanced collaboration with partner institutions:

- *South-South cooperation:* At the request of the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York a multi-year plan of action on South South cooperation for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention is being prepared and will be submitted to the

- ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Bonn in May 2008. To this end a brainstorming meeting was held in Montreal from 6 to 8 November 2006, and an open-ended expert meeting will be held in March 2008. At the request of the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), a meeting between the secretariats of organizations responsible for three major hydrological and forest basins of the world was held also in Montreal in November 2006 with a view of exchanging experiences between the Amazon basin, the Congo basin and the Heart of Borneo;
- *Partnership with local communities:* At the initiative of the Mayor of Curitiba - the host city of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties – a meeting on cities and biodiversities will be held next month. The report will be also submitted to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
  - *Partnership with scientific institutions:* A consortium of nine major scientific institutions was established in support of the enhanced phase of implementation. They include the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle de France, the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and CONABIO of Mexico. The Montreal institutions will be joining the consortium very soon. The first meeting of the consortium was held in Kew in September 2006. A plan of action was adopted which will be reviewed at the second meeting to be held in Paris in November this year.
  - *Partnership with universities:* Eleven major Canadian universities have decided to join forces in supporting the secretariat to live up to its mission in support to Parties in the enhanced phase of implementation of the Convention. The University of Victoria of Willington is considering also joining this unique partnership. A memorandum of understanding with the United Nations University has been finalized and will be signed very soon.
  - *Partnership with sister agencies:* A Heads of Agencies Task Force for the 2010 Biodiversity Target has been established and held its first ever meeting in September 2006 in Gland under the chairmanship of IUCN;
  - *Partnership with the biodiversity-related conventions:* The fifth meeting of the Biodiversity Liaison Group was held in Gland in September 2006 under the chairmanship of the Ramsar Convention. Concrete measures for enhancing the collaboration and promoting synergies were adopted. A draft joint work programme with Ramsar has been finalized and will be submitted to the next meeting of the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), to be held at the headquarters of UNESCO in July this year.
  - *Partnership with the other Rio conventions:* The cooperation among the three Rio Conventions has been enhanced through the recent establishment of the Joint Liaison group as well as bilateral arrangements.
  - *Partnership with regional organizations:* An MOU with the five United Nations regional economic commissions is being prepared with a view of integrating biodiversity into their regular activities. An MOU with Portugal and NEPAD Secretariat was signed here in Nairobi yesterday in support to the implementation of the biodiversity component of the environmental action plan of NEPAD. An MOU with the African Union is being finalized for the implementation of the African Convention on the Conservation of

Nature and Natural Resources as amended by the second meeting of the African Union held in Maputo in July 2003.

The enhanced phase of collaboration calls also for an enhanced engagements of all stakeholders of the Convention, including the business community. To this end, Secretariat focal points for major groups—including NGOs, local authorities, parliamentarians, children and youth, women and the private sector—have designed newsletters on biosafety and business, and others on youth and indigenous peoples will be issued very soon. A new CBD flagship publication *Gincana* has been created, and two issues, containing articles by eight Heads of State and Government, have been finalized.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The enhanced phase of implementation of the Convention calls also for an enhanced phase of collaboration between the Secretariat of the Convention and its mother institution, the United Nations Environment Programme. The implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan on Technological Support and Capacity-building, as well as the ongoing negotiations under the Convention on an international regime on access and benefit sharing which will be finalized before 2010 offer a unique opportunity to enhance UNEP support to the implementation of the Convention.

I thank you for your kind attention