



CBD

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Biodiversity and Climate Change

Statement

by

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on Biological Diversity**

at the

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the Convention on International Trade in Endangered
Species of Wild Fauna and Flora**

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Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honour to address the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). As you know, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) attaches great importance to the need to protect biodiversity from unsustainable trade. The Conference of the Parties to the CBD adopted a framework of goals and targets to assess progress in implementing the Strategic Plan of the Convention. Target 4.3 of this framework calls for no species of wild flora and fauna to be endangered by international trade. I am pleased to acknowledge that the inclusion of this target was welcomed by you at your thirteenth meeting, and that you noted its full consistency with the CITES strategic plan.

The CBD and CITES share the goal of achieving, by 2010, a substantial reduction in the current rate of loss of biodiversity. Achieving this target is ambitious, but vital. Maintaining and enhancing synergy between CBD and CITES is an important element in achieving this goal, and I wish to recognize and acknowledge the activities undertaken by CITES since the 2004 Vilm workshop on the very same topic, in particular the important work undertaken by the CITES Standing Committee at its fifty-third meeting.

Let me briefly address some important areas of cooperation and synergy.

Sustainable use

One important activity is joint work on sustainable use. I note with appreciation that at your last meeting you urged CITES Parties to make use of the CBD Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity when adopting non-detriment-making processes and making CITES non-detriment findings. As you know, the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines recognize that, in circumstances where the risk of converting natural landscapes to other purposes is high, encouraging sustainable use can provide incentives to maintain habitats and ecosystems, and the species within them. I believe that sustainable use is a prime area for cooperation and synergy between CITES and CBD, and note with appreciation the recommendations of the Standing Committee for further activities in this area.

Economics and incentive measures

The programme of work on incentive measures is another important area of cooperation and synergy. As it is closely linked to sustainable use, I wish to underline in particular our joint work under the umbrella of the UNCTAD Biotrade Initiative, as it is reflected in the documentation before you. As you know, incentive measures are a cross-cutting issue under the Convention on Biological Diversity—they are incorporated in all thematic programmes of work under the Convention. The programme of work on incentive measures is scheduled for in-depth review at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which will take place in May 2008 in Bonn. A preparatory process has been initiated for this in-depth review, consisting of the submission of national experiences and views in the application of incentive measures. I strongly believe that CITES can make an important contribution

towards this process, for instance, by communicating pertinent insights resulting from the national trade policy reviews, and I therefore wish to invite you to contribute to this preparatory process.

International trade

I noted with great interest the importance attached by CITES Parties to the development of strategic alliances with trade organizations, as reflected for instance under objective 3.3 of the draft CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013. The importance of enhancing the mutual supportiveness between international trade and environmental regimes has also been recognized by the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, and I have been requested to liaise with the secretariat of the World Trade Organization (WTO) with a view to explore options for closer cooperation. Just a few weeks ago, the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment in special (or negotiating) session invited several multilateral environmental agreements for informal consultations on procedures for regular exchange of information, which is part of the negotiating mandate of the committee under the Doha development agenda. Both the CBD and CITES secretariats participated in these consultations and, importantly, coordinated their input through an informal meeting convened by UNEP. I strongly believe that in the future, more and more opportunities for such coordination and cooperation will arise among our Conventions as we pursue our common objective of forging closer ties in particular with WTO. I wish to highlight the valuable role of UNEP acting as a facilitator in this process.

Illegal use

The illegal use of forest fauna has been an area of joint interest and cooperation for a number of years. Under the coordination of CIFOR and in collaboration with the Liaison Group on Non-timber Forest Resources, including among others CITES, the Secretariat of the CBD prepared a report entitled *Conservation and use of wildlife-based resources: the "bushmeat crisis" in question* to better understand the threat posed by the scale of hunting in many tropical forests. Similarly, the CBD addresses illegal consumption of flora and fauna by tourists (e.g., through purchase of souvenirs manufactured from wildlife, in particular such endangered species as corals and turtle shells; or through unregulated hunting, shooting and fishing) in decision VII/14 on biodiversity and tourism. The CBD will continue to be a forum to balance the views in relation to the impacts and measures of international trade as it relates to conservation and sustainable use.

CITES addresses a key threat to biodiversity. Indeed, overuse and unsustainable harvesting is one of the five key drivers of change impacting biodiversity, along with land use change, climate change, invasive species, and pollution. In consequence, CITES and the CBD cooperate closely through the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions. During its last meeting, held in Gland, Switzerland, in September 2006, the Biodiversity Liaison Group discussed the potential for enhanced collaboration and synergies on common mandate and the coherent implementation of the convention at the national level. The development of e-learning modules with the goal of establishing a virtual biodiversity academy and the collaboration of finance officers on funding

strategies to ensure that agreed programmes of work receive adequate funding were examined.

The Group also discussed cooperation among scientific bodies and the development of scientific advice. This cooperation is crucial to share information, and enhance the efficiency of the scientific bodies with a view to attaining the 2010 biodiversity target and beyond. On 1 July, in Paris, the chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of biodiversity-related conventions will meet for the first time to discuss a coordinated approach for the work beyond 2010. They will also discuss cooperation on climate change and biodiversity, as well as the need for a coherent system for biodiversity information management and scientific and technical guidance on the complementarities and gaps in guidance developed under the conventions.

CITES is a key partner in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2010 biodiversity target of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and we continue to attach great importance to the close cooperation with CITES in pursuing our common goal for the benefit of the life on Earth. I wish you every success in your deliberations in the coming days.

Thank you for your kind attention.