



Biodiversity and Climate Change

MESSAGE FROM  
THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
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ON THE OCCASION OF UNITED NATIONS DAY  
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Marking the anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Charter on 24 October 1945, United Nations Day celebrates the achievements and goals of the Organization. This year's celebration reminds us that today more than ever before multilateral cooperation is required to address the unprecedented environmental challenges facing the world, and that the United Nations is the epitome of multilateral cooperation for achieving peace and security.

In recognizing the achievements of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and former United States Vice-President Mr. Al Gore for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about anthropogenic climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change, the Nobel Foundation has again reminded us that sustainable development is the new name for peace and security and that climate change, as well as its implication on the unprecedented loss of biodiversity, may increase the danger of violent conflicts and wars, within and between States. For this reason, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon has set climate change as his major priority and, for the first time in the history of the United Nations, convened on 24 September a meeting of Heads of State and Government exclusively devoted to climate change.

It is also for this reason that, this year, the international community celebrated on 22 May the International Day for Biological Diversity under the theme "Biodiversity and Climate Change". In addition, the United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2010 as the International Year of Biological Diversity. Indeed, if we are to fulfil the promise made by Heads of State and Government at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to substantially reduce by 2010 the loss of biodiversity, an enhanced multilateral cooperation under the aegis of the United Nations is essential. The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Bonn in May 2008, will see, for the first time, the participation of Heads of State and Government, thus providing a unique opportunity to redouble efforts for achieving this strategic objective.

As we observe this United Nations Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to the ideals embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and spare no

effort for the effective implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, namely the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, as a major contribution for achieving lasting peace and shared prosperity for present and future generations.