



MESSAGE

from

Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary,

Convention on Biological Diversity

on the occasion of the

United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, 19 December 2009

Montreal, 18 December 2009. This year's celebration of the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation is of particular significance for the Convention on Biological Diversity. It comes on the eve of the International Year of Biodiversity, a year that, we hope, will see the adoption at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Nagoya in October, of a multi-year plan of action on South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development.

From the perspective of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the importance of coordinating and supporting South-South and triangular cooperation on a global and United Nations system-wide basis is clear. Most of the Parties to the Convention are from the South, where most of the world's biodiversity lies. The countries of the South also hold the technologies and experience to address the challenge of biodiversity loss and thus promote sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Cooperation between those countries is therefore a key element for the successful achievement of the objectives of the Convention.

For these reasons, the Secretariat of the Convention has been very active in recent years in promoting South-South cooperation on biodiversity. In November 2006, under the chairmanship of South Africa, a brainstorming meeting was convened and resulted in a framework and guidelines for a multi-year plan of action on biodiversity for development. In May 2008, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention adopted a decision on South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development, calling for the preparation of a multi-year plan of action to be submitted to the tenth meeting of the Parties.

More recently, in October 2009, in partnership with the Chairman and the Executive Secretary of the G-77, the Executive Secretary of the Convention convened the first meeting of the Steering Committee for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development, which will guide the development of the plan of action in the coming months.

At the same time, the Secretariat has promoted active collaboration between the three major regional organizations of the world's tropical forest regions: the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the Central Africa Forests Commission (COMIFAC).

As part of the process leading to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the multi-year plan of action will be further discussed by the Steering Committee at its second meeting, to be held in Khartoum in early 2010, as well at the third meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention to be held in Nairobi, from 24 to 28 May, 2010. In addition, a consultative expert meeting



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will be held in Kampala from 31 May to 2 June 2010, followed by a high-level meeting of the G-77 in Abidjan in July/August to adopt the plan.

It is also intended that the plan of action will be presented at the South-South Forum to be organized on the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

We in the biodiversity family therefore look forward to continuing efforts to promote South-South cooperation and wish all concerned a successful celebration of the United Nations Day.
