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BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE  
OF THE PARTIES  
Rome, 10 February 2008

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONFERENCE OF  
THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY HELD  
IN ROME  
ON 10 FEBRUARY 2008**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. The fifth meeting of the COP-8 Bureau was held on 10 February 2008 at the Headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome. The meeting was chaired by Mr. José Antônio Marcondes de Carvalho, the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the FAO, representing the President of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The following Bureau members attended the meeting:

Mr. Deon Stewart (Bahamas)  
Mr. Karma Nyedrup (Bhutan)  
Mr. Robert McLean (Canada)  
Mr. Fernando Perez Egert (Chile)  
Ms. Andrea Stefan (Croatia)  
Mr. Ositadinma Anaedu (Nigeria)  
Mr. José Luis Herranz (Spain)  
Dr. Volodymyr Domashlinets (Ukraine)  
Mr. Abdul Hakim Aulaiah (Yemen)

2. The meeting was also attended by Mr. Jochen Flasbarth of Germany (in his capacity as an ex-officio member and host of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties), Mr. Fernando Casas and Mr. Timothy Hodges, Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, as well as the Executive Secretary of the Convention, Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif.

**ITEM 1 OPENING OF THE MEETING**

3. The meeting was opened by Mr. José Antônio Marcondes de Carvalho on behalf of the President of the Conference of the Parties, Her Excellency Ms. Marina Silva,

Minister of Environment of Brazil. On behalf of HEM Marina Silva, the Minister of the environment of Brazil and President of COP 8, the Chair welcomed Bureau members and proceeded to the adoption of the agenda.

4. The Executive Secretary welcomed the Chair and the Bureau members, and highlighted that this was the first time a CBD meeting was being held in Rome at the headquarters of FAO. He stated that this reflects the excellent relation existing between the two institutions and offers an opportunity to enhance inter-agency collaboration.

5. The Executive Secretary advised the Bureau that the meeting would be graced by a number of VIPs including, the President of the Federated States of Micronesia and Ministers of Environment from Mexico and Ecuador, each of whom would address the Plenary.

## **ITEM 2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

6. The Bureau adopted the following agenda :

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Second Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas
4. Preparations for the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Technical, Technological and Scientific Advice (SBSTTA 13)
5. Follow up to the sixth meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing
6. Preparations for and organizational matters relating to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including its high level segment
7. Other matters
8. Closure of the meeting.

7. Consistent with the rules of procedure and practice, it was agreed that the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties would serve as the Bureau for the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas. Ms. Mary Fosi Mbantenkhu of Cameroon agreed to act as Rapporteur for the meeting.

**ITEM 3 SECOND MEETING OF THE *AD HOC* OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON PROTECTED AREAS**

8. The Bureau considered and adopted the draft agenda and organization of work of the Second Meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas. The body agreed that the Working Group would meet in plenary only.

**ITEM 4 PREPARATIONS FOR THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR TECHNICAL, TECHNOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ADVICE (SBSTTA 13)**

9. As the SBSTTA 13 Chair was not able to join the Bureau meeting, the Secretariat presented a briefing on the issues on the agenda of the meeting. The Bureau was advised that Professor Rosalia Arteaga Serrano, Executive Director of Fundacio Natura Regional (Ecuador y Colombia), Member of the Board of Directors of the Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE) and former Secretary General of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), has accepted to deliver the keynote presentation on how to reconcile forestry, agriculture and environment in the context of the 2010 biodiversity target.

10. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that brief introductory statements would be made by various individuals/organisations on the different agenda items, as follows:

- ~ Agenda Item 3.1 – Chairman of the International Technical Conference on Animal Genetic Resources, held in Interlaken, Switzerland in September 2007.
- ~ Agenda Item 3.2 - FAO and CIFOR.
- ~ Agenda Item 4.1 - Chair of the Expert Working Group on Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification Systems, held in the Azores, Portugal in October 2007.
- ~ Agenda Item 4.2 - Ramsar Convention.

11. The Executive Secretary took the floor to advise the COP Bureau that the SBSTTA Bureau members had found the opportunity to meet face-to-face very useful, and took the opportunity to thank UNEP, the Government of Canada, and the Government of Austria for generous support provided over the course of 2007 and early 2008 to support such meetings. He also advised the Bureau that the SBSTTA Bureau was in the process of considering aligning the SBSTTA Chairmanship cycle with that of the COP, as this would allow for greater synergies to be developed between the scientific and policy streams. He highlighted the fact that the next SBSTTA Chair would be selected from the GRULAC region and that this issue had been put on the agenda of the GRULAC preparatory regional meeting prior to COP 9 in Bonn.

12. The Chair expressed appreciation for the innovative idea outlined by the SBSTTA Chair in the Note by the Chair (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/1/Add.2), and stated that it would be useful for the COP Bureau to have the SBSTTA Chair address them over the course of the week of WG PA 2, in order to share his ideas about how SBSTTA 13's work would proceed.

13. In response to a query, the Secretariat advised that the SBSTTA 13 Agenda and Organisation of Work had been provided to the COP Bureau for information only, and that no formal decision was required of the COP Bureau as both documents had already been approved by the SBSTTA Bureau directly. The need to enhance collaboration between the Bureau of COP and the Bureau of SBSTTA was noted.

**ITEM 5 FOLLOW UP TO THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC  
OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING**

14. The Co-Chairs briefed the Bureau on the outcome of the ABS 6 meeting held in Geneva on 21-25 January 2008. They expressed satisfaction with the elaboration of a draft recommendation for COP 9, and indicated that progress had been made, as negotiations on an International Regime for ABS had begun in earnest. They reiterated to the Bureau that the WG had moved from addressing a range of issues to identification of a series of concrete options, which was an important milestone, but that much hard work would be required in order to maintain momentum and arrive at a positive result at COP 10. In this regard, they highlighted the need for two or three inter-sessional meetings of the WG on ABS prior to COP 10 to be held in October 2010. They underlined the need for each WG meeting to be preceded by regional and inter-regional consultation meetings. They stressed the need for inter-sessional consultations as well as the need to for adequate financial support. The view expressed by the Co-Chairs regarding the positive outcome of ABS 6 was seconded by members of the Bureau.

15. The Executive Secretary lauded the fact that all regions had demonstrated a willingness to move the process forward at ABS 6. He stressed the need for the financial implications of the ABS working group meetings be adequately reflected in the core budget of the Convention for the next biennium to be adopted by COP9.

16. The Co-Chairs shared with the Bureau some practical ideas of their expectations at COP9 and on how to complete their mandate in time for COP 10. They recalled the instruction received from Heads of State at Johannesburg, which called for Parties to the CBD to negotiate an IR. In this vein, they stressed that the engagement of Ministers of the Environment would be key and moreover, that the timing for their engagement would be vital.

**ITEM 6 PREPARATIONS FOR AND ORGANISATIONAL MATTERS  
RELATING TO THE NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE  
PARTIES, INCLUDING ITS HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT**

17. Under this agenda item, the representative of Germany confirmed that letters of invitation to the Ministers have been dispatched as well as letters addressed by the German Chancellor to the participants to the opening ceremony of the high level segment including the UN Secretary General. The Bureau was advised that consultation were still proceeding within the regional group on the chair of the two working groups of COP9. The Bureau agreed to revisit this issue at its next meetings.

18. At its meeting on 13 February, the representative of Germany informed the Bureau that a regionally balanced proposal regarding the Chairs for the WGs could be tabled, as follows:

WG I – Ms. Maria Mbengashe (South Africa)

WG II – Ms. Chaweelan Hutacharem (Thailand)

The Bureau welcomed the proposal and noted with satisfaction that for the first time two women will chair the working groups of a COP and that the decision was taken three months in advance.

19. The Bureau agreed that Mr. Ositadinma Anaedu from Nigeria will continue to chair the budget committee of MOP 4 and COP 9. The representative of the European Union reiterated the suggestion of his group on the need to have a contact group at COP 9 to be devoted to GEF related issues. The Bureau agreed to continue the consultation on this proposal and to defer its decision at its next meeting.

20. The Executive Secretary recalled that the second meeting of WGRI held in Paris in July 2007 recommended to convene a high level informal dialogue with the CEO of GEF during the week end preceding the opening of COP9. However, thanks to the contribution of Spain, regional preparatory meetings will be convened on 17-18 May 2007. It was suggested that such a dialogue may take place on Monday 19 May between 13:00-15:00.

#### **ITEM 7 OTHER MATTERS**

21. No issues were raised under this agenda item.

#### **ITEM 8 CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

22. The Chair brought the meeting to a close at 18:00.

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