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POSTAL ADDRESS - ADRESSE POSTALE : UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. 10017

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

25 March 2008

Dear Mr. Djoghlaif,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I thank you for your follow-up letter of 7 March 2008, in respect of your invitation for the Secretary-General to participate in the opening ceremony of the High-level Segment of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Bonn from 28 to 30 May 2008.

I would like to refer to my letter of 7 November 2007 in connection with the same event. I regret to inform you now that owing to other pressing demands in the Secretary-General's schedule during the period of the conference he will be unable to attend. Let me nevertheless take this opportunity to convey his best wishes for a successful event.

Yours sincerely,

Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention
on Biological Diversity
Montreal

27-13107/28-02809

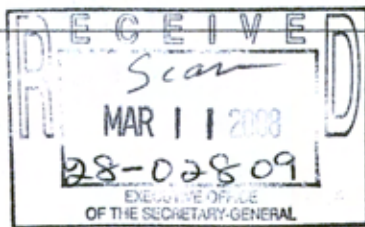


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Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Ref.: SCBD/OES/AD/AR/61401



10 March 2008

Mr. Secretary-General,

As a follow up to my note dated 7th March on the High Level Segment of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Bonn, Germany, on 28-30 May, and preceded in the afternoon of the 27th by the High Level Dialogue with Heads of UN agencies, please find attached possible elements of your draft statement at the opening of this important event.

I look forward to welcoming you in Bonn.

Please accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

Attachment

Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations Headquarters
1st Avenue and 46th Street
New York, U.S.A.



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Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



**Draft Statement of Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
at the opening of the
High-Level Segment of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on Biological Diversity
Bonn, 28 May 2008**

Chancellor Angela Merkel,
Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Guten Tag,

Just a few months ago, I carried out one of the most breathtaking business trips of my career. In fact, it was not so much a business trip as an environmental revelation. My eco-tour to AAA - meaning Antarctica, Andes, and Amazon - filled me with awe and amazement. Never have I seen such stunning beauty as in the crystalline wonders of the glaciers of Antarctica and the Andes, or in the diversity of life and towering greenery in the Amazon. And yet, this beauty was so starkly contrasted by the undeniable degradation and destruction of these natural splendours – treasures that are being threatened by humanity's own hand.

It is for this reason that I decided to make climate change one of my highest priorities. Witnessing first-hand the devastating effects of climate change on fragile ecosystems around the world has strengthened my resolve to ensure that real steps are taken towards mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change. More than this, however, my visits to the Andes and the Amazon reminded me how intimately linked human well-being is to the well-being of ecosystems. Indigenous community leaders on Combu Island in the Amazon clearly demonstrated to me how their lives depend on a healthy rainforest, and, because of this, they are true stewards of its diversity and pioneers in its preservation. Any phenomenon that degrades these indispensable places on Earth invariably impacts our well-being. And, unfortunately, climate change is one such phenomenon: one that does not adhere to political boundaries; one that affects all countries and all ecosystems.

As I stated on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity in May 2007, celebrated under the theme "Climate Change and Biodiversity", biodiversity is the



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COP 9 MOP 4 Bonn Germany 2008



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foundation of life on Earth and one of the pillars of sustainable development. Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is an essential element of any strategy to adapt to climate change. Mangrove forests and other coastal wetlands represent a bulwark against extreme weather events and rising sea-levels. As agricultural landscapes become warmer and drier, a diverse range of livestock and cereal crops can provide farmers with options to cope with new conditions. Forests, peatlands and other ecosystems contribute to sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, thereby helping to mitigate increases in greenhouse-gas emissions.

Indeed, the relationship between biodiversity and climate change is a two-way street. While the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the fourth Global Environment Outlook report from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) conclude that biodiversity has never been so severely jeopardized as it is today, largely as a result climate change, we also know that a resilient and robust ecosystems, with a diverse range of species, are a key factor in mitigating the effects of climate change. Thus the imperative for cooperation is clear. The three Rio conventions, namely the United Nations Framework for the Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) must continue to work closely to address the greatest environmental challenges of our time.

While the United Nations must provide the leadership, nothing can be achieved without the commitment of all stakeholders. As such, it is a pleasure to be with you today to witness first-hand the tremendous commitment from so many diverse groups. It is an honour to participate at the opening of this high-level ministerial meeting with the participation for the first time of Heads of State and Government.

Only two years are left to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target to significantly reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity, adopted in 2002 at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development by 110 Heads of State and Government. Only two years are left to finalize the negotiation on the international regime on access and benefit-sharing.

The participation here today of Heads of State and Government is a clear demonstration that business-as-usual is no longer an option, and unprecedented efforts at all levels are required for protecting life on Earth. Therefore, I feel it is of prime importance that I be with you today, to show my unwavering support for your efforts, and join you in your deliberations. I also feel that it is of prime importance that I be with you today to convey my gratitude to the Heads of State and Government present with us this morning and to say "*Vielen Dank*" to Chancellor Angela Merkel for her personal commitment and, through her, to the German people for making this meeting a unique event in the life of the Convention.

The unprecedented planetary environmental challenges of climate change and the loss of biodiversity that touch every aspect of our daily lives, call for the establishment of a global alliance of all stakeholders. I applaud the unique engagement of the business community, the non-governmental organizations, the cities, the youth and women in this meeting here in Bonn.

This meeting has surpassed itself in ensuring the full engagement of all stakeholders, as we have all a duty to fulfil and a role to play. Based on what I have

witnessed and heard here today, I have no doubt that a new era in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention is born. I applaud the organizers whole-heartedly for creating such an open forum. I applaud also the Life Web initiative launched by Germany and its partners as a major contribution to the new era of enhanced commitments by all stakeholders for protecting life on Earth.

While an individual can achieve great things, many individuals together can have an exponential impact. This is why the United Nations was created. This is why the work of your Convention is so important. This is why I see a sea of hope reflected in all of you sitting here before me today. Without you, nothing can be achieved, yet with you, we can surely tackle the global challenges that we, ourselves, have caused. Together we can successfully address the twin challenge of climate change and biodiversity.

Your meeting today is being held under the motto "One nature, one world, our future". Let us therefore be united in our efforts to rectify the damage that we have done to Mother Nature and to ensure that our children and our children's children will have a healthy and vibrant world to live in. They too deserve the chance to experience the dazzling natural beauty that I saw. They too deserve the chance to live on a planet that is able to provide them with the basic necessities of life. We owe it to them, we owe it to us.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL

REFERENCE:

7 November 2007

Dear Mr. Djoghaf,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I would like to thank you for your letter of 26 October 2007, inviting him to take part in the opening ceremony of the High Level Segment of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-9) to be held in Bonn, Germany, on 28 May 2008.

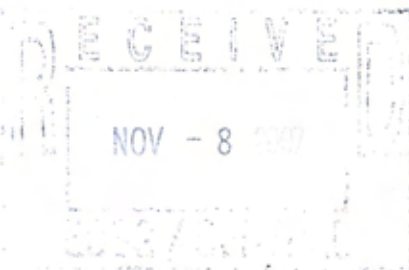
The Secretary-General welcomes this significant initiative and therefore attaches a great deal of importance to your invitation. However, I wish to inform you that, given the pressures on his schedule, it is too early to confirm his participation at this stage. We will, nevertheless, keep the invitation in mind as his programme develops, and revert to you in due course with a definitive reply as the Secretary-General's travel plans for May 2008 develop.

With many thanks for your kind understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Vijay Nambiar
Chef de Cabinet

Mr. Ahmed Djoghaf
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention
on Biological Diversity
Montreal

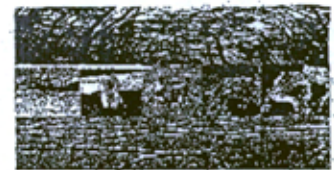


27-13107



CBD

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

 22 May 2007
International Day for Biological Diversity


Biodiversity and Climate Change

Ref: SCBD/OES/AD/tk/60533

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27-13107

26 October 2007

Dear Mr. Kim,

I have brought to the kind attention of the Secretary-General, at my meeting with him on 25 May 2007, the strategic importance of his presence at the opening ceremony of the High Level Segment of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-9) to be held in Bonn, Germany, on 28-30 May 2008, with the participation of five Heads of State and Government and more than 100 Ministers of Environment. I have been informed by the German authorities that a letter to that effect will be sent soon by the Chancellor of Germany, Ms. Angela Merkel, to the Secretary-General.

I have also been informed that, following the lunch to be hosted by the Chancellor in honor of Heads of State attending the meeting on 28 May 2008, the Secretary-General will be invited at 3:00 pm to open the Heads of State component of the ministerial segment with the participation of the President of Brazil, in his capacity as the country chairing COP-8, the Prime Minister of Japan, in his capacity as host of COP-11 in 2010, the Head of the State hosting COP-12 in 2012 (Africa), the Prime Minister of Canada as host of the Secretariat, and the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda as the President of the G-77.

On 28 May, the German authorities would also like to convene a pledging commitment of participants and stakeholders where the CBD Secretariat will commit to green itself through the enhanced implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with Professor Wangari Maathai (Green Belt Movement).

Moreover, the German authorities would like to seize the opportunity of the participation of the Secretary-General to inaugurate symbolically the United Nations Conference Center under construction.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could advise the staff in charge of scheduling to pencil the date of 28 May 2008 on the calendar of the Secretary-General.

Yours sincerely,

 Ahmed Djoghlaef
Executive Secretary

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