



# General Assembly

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## Fifty-eighth session Second Committee

Agenda item 94 (c)

### Environment and sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity

#### Morocco:\* draft resolution

#### Convention on Biological Diversity

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000, 56/197 of 21 December 2001 and 57/253 and 57/260 of 20 December 2002,

*Reaffirming* the sovereign rights of States over their own biological resources,

*Reiterating* that the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>1</sup> is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

*Recalling* that a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity will require the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries,

*Recognizing* the rights of local and indigenous communities that are holders of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices and, with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, the need to develop and implement benefit-sharing mechanisms on mutually agreed terms for the use of such knowledge, innovations and practices,

*Expressing its deep appreciation* for the generous offer of the Government of Malaysia to host the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena

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\*On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

Protocol on Biosafety, to be held at Kuala Lumpur, respectively, from 9 to 20 February and from 23 to 27 February 2004,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;<sup>2</sup>

2. *Notes* the outcome of the open-ended intersessional meeting on the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity up to 2010, held at Montreal, Canada, from 17 to 20 March 2003, and examined the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held at Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2003,<sup>3</sup> as it relates to the Convention process;

3. *Notes also* the outcomes of the eighth and ninth meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Montreal, Canada, from 10 to 14 March and from 10 to 14 November 2003;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Convention to the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and for the achievement of the latter to be consistent with the objectives of the Convention;

5. *Invites* the parties to the Convention to take the necessary steps to finalize the negotiations of the international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources so as to foster the effective implementation of the three objectives of the Convention;

6. *Stresses* the importance of harmonizing the reporting requirements of the biodiversity-related conventions and, in this regard, encourages further implementation of relevant decisions of those conventions;

7. *Urges* developed countries parties to the Convention to contribute to the relevant trust fund of the Convention so as to enhance the full participation of the developing country parties in all its activities;

8. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity,<sup>4</sup> on 11 September 2003, and the convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and invites the parties to the Convention that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Protocol to do so;

9. *Emphasizes* that the effective implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety will require full support from parties, Governments and relevant international organizations, as well as other stakeholders;

10. *Urges* developed countries to facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound biotechnology for the effective implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on

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<sup>2</sup> A/58/191.

<sup>3</sup> See *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I.

<sup>4</sup> See UNEP/CBD/ExCOP/1/3 and Corr.1, part two, annex.

Biosafety, in accordance with the relevant articles of the Convention and the Protocol;

11. *Underlines* the need for financial resources and capacity-building for the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, particularly with regard to strengthening national capacities for making the required information available to and interacting with the Biosafety Clearing House, with a view to enabling parties to the Protocol, especially developing countries, effectively to implement the Protocol in general and to make informed decisions on imports of living modified organisms in particular;

12. *Takes note* of the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and offices of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,<sup>5</sup> the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,<sup>6</sup> and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and further encourages continuing cooperation in order to promote complementarities among the secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

13. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue reporting to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention as well as its Cartagena Protocol;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the sub-item entitled “Convention on Biological Diversity”.

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<sup>5</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.