



**MESSAGE OF DR. AHMED DJOGLAF,  
THE NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY,  
TO THE CITIZENS OF BRAZIL**



In less than seven weeks, Curitiba, your city in the State of Parana, which has taken the lead in demonstrating to the world that a 'green city' is not only a viable concept but a living reality, will be elevated to the status of capital of biosafety and biodiversity of the world. Indeed your country, Brazil, one of the leaders of the world in modern biotechnology, will host from 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March 2006 the third meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. By hosting this crucial meeting in the life of this Protocol, labeled as the first legal instrument of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Brazil will demonstrate its commitment to promoting the environmentally sound management of biotechnology.

In less than two months, Brazil, one of the world richest biodiversity countries in the world, will also host in Curitiba, from 20<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006, the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. Signed in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 at the first ever Earth Summit of our Planet, the convention on life on earth, after almost 14 years, is coming back home to gain new strength at a time when a paradigm shift from policy development to implementation is urgently required. Brazilian people and their government have always have always played a leadership role in promoting sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Curitiba biodiversity international conference provides a unique opportunity to the citizens of Brazil to assist the international community in promoting a new era of implementation of the Convention on life on earth. H.E.M. Marina Silva, the Minister of Environment of Brazil, has already announced that the 'world can count on Brazil in conserving and ensuring the sustainable use of biological diversity of our planet'. In my capacity as the new Executive Secretary of the Convention, I call on all citizens of Brazil to ensure that the Curitiba International Conference be remembered by future generations as the birth place of a new era of enhanced implementation of the convention and the nest for a renewed global partnership for the promotion of the biodiversity component of sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals aimed at alleviating poverty and hunger in the world. Let us



take the spirit of the new Brazil, under the able leadership of His Excellency Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, the President of Brazil and the genius of the Curitiba people to guide the decisions of this unique global international event on life on Earth.

Brasilia, 17 January 2006