

CURITIBA DECLARATION On Cities and Biodiversity

We the Mayors and other high-level officials participating in the meeting on Cities and Biodiversity held in Curitiba, Brazil, from 26 to 28 March 2007,

Recalling the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and its three objectives aimed at the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources,

Deeply concerned by the unprecedented rate of loss of biodiversity of our planet and its far-reaching environmental, social, economic and cultural impacts, exacerbated by the effects of climate change,

Deeply concerned also that the consequences of biodiversity loss and ecosystem disruption are harshest for the poor and that biodiversity loss poses a significant barrier to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially Goal 7, to ensure environmental sustainability,

Reaffirming that healthy ecosystems provide social, economic and ecological benefits to urban areas, as well as goods and services that underpin various industries, and, thereby, the well-being of the residents of cities,

Recalling the adoption of the 2010 biodiversity target during the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, aiming to significantly reduce the rate of biodiversity loss at the local, national and global levels, as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth,

Recalling the commitment by Heads of State in the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development and reflected in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation to negotiate an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources (ABS),

Recalling also that, at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Curitiba, Brazil, in 2006, the Convention on Biological Diversity entered a new phase of enhanced implementation of its three objectives, and the Parties agreed to accelerate the efforts to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target and to negotiate an international regime on access and benefit sharing (ABS) at the earliest possible time before the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in 2010,

Considering that in 2007 the majority of the Earth's population will live in cities, and that much of this growth will occur in developing countries,

Recognizing the crucial importance of the involvement of local authorities in the global efforts towards the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity, as it is through local actions that biodiversity issues are addressed most efficiently,

Recognizing that particularly in the developing countries, communities are directly dependent on ecosystems goods and services provided by biodiversity,

Considering that urbanization can contribute positively to human development as cities offer many social and economic opportunities,

Underlining that urban experiences in ecosystem conservation and biodiversity protection can contribute to strengthening national policies, regional strategies, and global agendas that respond to urban needs,

Recalling that the role of local authorities was acknowledged during the 1992 Earth Summit: in adopting chapter 28 of Agenda 21, 101 Heads of State and Government recognized local authorities as key actors in sustainable development and called for the establishment of Local Agenda 21 campaigns,

Recognizing the important support provided by the inter-agency task force constituted to support this event with the participation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and IUCN—the World Conservation Union, in particular through its Countdown 2010 initiative,

Recognizing the contribution to the task force of ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability, and noting the important contribution of ICLEI's Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) Project in mobilizing key cities and promoting the exchange of experience on urban biodiversity best practices to foster the international cooperation of municipal leaders on achieving 2010 biodiversity target,

Underlining the importance of institutions such as United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), as well as the World Mayors' Council on Climate Change (WMCCC) and its biodiversity component, in the cooperation between local governments,

Recognizing the importance of the cooperation between key cities for the Convention on Biological Diversity, which also stand as global references for their initiatives on urban biodiversity, such as Curitiba, as host of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Bonn, as host of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Nagoya, as representative of the candidate cities for the hosting of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and Montreal as host of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Considering the value and importance of the case-studies, best practices and experiences presented during this conference, which are contributions to address the issue of environmental degradation,

1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to contribute actively to the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and to the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target aimed at reducing substantially the rate of loss of the biodiversity of our planet, as well as the establishment of an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources (ABS);

2. *Reaffirm also* our resolve to integrate biodiversity concerns into urban planning and development, with a view to improving the lives of urban residents, in particular those affected by poverty, securing the livelihood base of cities and developing appropriate regulatory, implementation and decision-making mechanisms to ensure effective implementation of biodiversity plans,

3. *Further reaffirm* the urgency to act on the 2010 biodiversity target and the Millennium Development Goals to secure livelihoods for present and future generations in a sustainable way. To this end, we welcome the coming together of existing initiatives, such as Countdown 2010, Local Action for Biodiversity, and UNEP's Campaign on Cities and Biodiversity to form a global partnership of cities, national Governments, development agencies, private sector partners, non-governmental organizations, knowledge and research institutions, and multilateral organizations to address the challenges of meeting the 2010 biodiversity target and create political momentum at local level;

4. *Stress the need* to raise public awareness and change biodiversity depleting behaviour of all sectors of society through means such as dissemination of urban success stories,

city-to-city cooperation, community education programmes and by celebrating International Biodiversity Day on 22 May every year as well as actively contributing to marking the 2010 International Year for Biodiversity as proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations, in ways which directly and indirectly enhance the lives of communities;

5. *Invite* the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to make available to larger public the case studies presented at the meeting, with a view of establishing with the support of the task force and advise of the Curitiba Steering Committee, a clearing house mechanism for local authorities and to provide access, via its website, to information related to urban biodiversity,

6. *Encourage* UNEP to assemble a publication of case studies from around the world, on cities, ecosystems and biodiversity, in collaboration with UN-HABITAT and ICLEI.

7. *Invite* the Mayor of Montreal, as the official representative of UCLG to this event, to present the report of this meeting on cities and biodiversity to its World Congress in Jeju, South Korea, in October 2007;

8. *Invite* the Mayor of Curitiba to present the report of this meeting on cities and biodiversity to the Municipal Conference to be held from 26 to 27 May 2008 in Bonn, Germany, prior to the high-level segment of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and *invite* representatives of the Curitiba meeting to present its report to the next World Urban Forum, to be held in Nanjing, China, in 2008, and to other related events,

9. *Mandate* the Mayor of Curitiba, as the host city of the eight meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and the Mayor of Montreal, as the host city of the Secretariat of the Convention, as well as the Mayor of Bonn, as the host city of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the Mayor of Nagoya, Japan, as the city offering to host the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to act as a Steering Committee in order to develop synergies between existing associations, such as ICLEI (WMCCC) and UCLG, and the task force established for the current meeting, to carry a strong common message, and to follow up through concrete projects, awareness campaigns and exchange of best practices;

10. *Invite* the four mayors of the Steering Committee and the Mayor of Johannesburg to work together to present the results of the Curitiba and the Bonn meetings on cities and biodiversity to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held from 19 to 31 May 2008 in Bonn, Germany;

11. *Express our deep gratitude* to the city government of Curitiba, through its Mayor, city officials, and population, for the warm welcome granted to all participants in the meeting on Cities and Biodiversity, and *congratulate* the city government for its unique and innovative Biocity initiative.

Curitiba, Brazil, 28 March 2007