

COURTESY TRANSLATION

1. Further to my letter of last November 23rd, I am pleased to send you the preliminary agenda of the High Level Segment of the 8th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Curitiba, from March 26th to 29th, 2006.
2. The High Level Segment will be opened on March 26th, with a reception at the Curitiba *Ópera de Arame* by the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Luís Inácio Lula da Silva. During the day there will be an optional trip to the magnificent Atlantic Rain Forest, in the *Serra do Mar*.
3. The Event will take place at the “*Estação Embratel Convention Center*”, in the center of Curitiba, and will be organized as a series of large round-tables: an initial plenary roundtable to set the scene, followed by four thematic roundtables dealing with I) biodiversity, food and agriculture, II) biodiversity, development and the eradication of poverty, III) biodiversity and trade, and IV) access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing. These thematic roundtables will be followed by a plenary session to report on the issues discussed and conclusions reached in each of the roundtables.
4. Each roundtable will be co-chaired by two ministers of the environment from different continents and will start with a keynote speaker, followed by interventions from half a dozen selected panelists, leaders from different sectors of society, followed by an open discussion among the ministers.
5. On the last day of the High Level Segment, ministers will have an opportunity to report at the COP8 Plenary, in the “*ExpoTrade Convention Center*” on the recent achievements in individual countries to implement the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. There will be no formal statement from the High Level Segment, just a report from the president, based on the round-table reports, highlighting the main outcomes of the discussions.
6. I should, therefore, like to renew my invitation for Your Excellency to honor the 8th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity with your presence at the High Level Segment. I am confident that together we will be able to address the challenges of implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity and its 2010 goal to significantly reduce current rates of loss of biodiversity.

Hoping to welcome you in Curitiba, in March 2006,

Please accept my best regards,

Marina Silva
Minister for the Environment

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**Convention on Biological Diversity
8th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-8)**

MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

26 to 29 March 2006

Dates: Sunday, 26 March to Wednesday, 29 March 2006

Venue: Estação Embratel Convention Center, Curitiba

Participants: Ministers of the Environment of Contracting Parties to the CBD, other Ministers and high-level participants, speakers, panelists and representatives of major groups

Transmission: (planned) live webcast; screens at ExpoTrade

The programme will allow Ministers who so wish to participate in the final phase of the COP negotiations on Wednesday, 29 and Thursday, 30 March.

Programme

Saturday, 25 March 2006

Arrival of Ministers wishing to take part in the field trip

Sunday, 26 March 2006

Arrival of Ministers

10:00 – 17:00 Field Trip

Atlantic Forest and the Coastal Mountain Range (*Serra do Mar*)

19:30 – 22:00 Official Opening Ceremony and Dinner

Host: President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, H.E. Luís Inácio Lula da Silva

Venue: Ópera do Arame

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Monday, 27 March 2006

10:00 – 13:00 **Plenary Session**

President: Minister Marina Silva

Participants: Ministers +1, representatives of major groups

Theme: Mainstreaming Biodiversity: progress and challenges

Presentation (20 minutes)

Speaker: Professor A.H.Zakri, Co-Chair, Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Board;
Director, United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies

Title: The conclusions of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

Speaker: [to be announced]

Title: [to be announced]

Panelists: [to be announced]

Commentaries by Panelists (30 minutes)

Commentaries by representatives of major groups (20 minutes)

Commentaries by Ministers (60 minutes)

Final Remarks

13:15 – 14:45 **Lunch**

Host: Minister Marina Silva

Venue: Estação Embratel Convention Center

15:00 – 18:00 **Panel I**

Theme: Biodiversity, Food and Agriculture

Co-Chairs: Ministers from two regional groups

Speaker: [to be announced]

Panelists: [to be announced]

Format:

- 1 – presentation (30 minutes)
- 2 – response by panelists (30 minutes)
- 3 – response by representatives of major groups (30 minutes)
- 4 – general discussion by Ministers (60 minutes)
- 5 – final remarks by panelists (30 minutes)

15:00 – 18:00 **Panel II**

Theme: Biodiversity, Development and the Eradication of Poverty

Co-Chairs: Ministers from two regional groups

Speaker: [to be announced]

Panelists: [to be announced]

Format:

- 1 – presentation (30 minutes)
- 2 – response by panelists (30 minutes)
- 3 – response by representatives of major groups (30 minutes)
- 4 – general discussion by Ministers (60 minutes)
- 5 – final remarks by panelists (30 minutes)

Summary of discussions to be prepared by the Co-Chairs

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20:30 – 22:00 **Dinner**

Host: [to be announced]

Venue: [to be announced]

Tuesday – 28 March 2006

10:00 – 13:00 **Panel III**

Theme: Biodiversity and Trade

Co-Chairs: Ministers from two regional groups

Speaker: [to be announced]

Panelists: [to be announced]

Format:

- 1 – presentation (30 minutes)
- 2 – response by panelists (30 minutes)
- 3 – response by representatives of major groups (30 minutes)
- 4 – general discussion by Ministers (60 minutes)
- 5 – final remarks by panelists (30 minutes)

10:00 – 13:00 **Panel IV**

Theme: Access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing

Co-Chairs: Ministers from two regional groups

Speaker: [to be announced]

Panelists: [to be announced]

Format:

- 1 – presentation (30 minutes)
- 2 – response by panelists (30 minutes)
- 3 – response by representatives of major groups (30 minutes)
- 4 – general discussion by Ministers (60 minutes)
- 5 – final remarks by panelists (30 minutes)

Summary of discussions to be prepared by the Co-Chairs

13:00 – 15:00 **Lunch**

Host: Minister Marina Silva

Venue: Estação Embratel Convention Center

15:30 – 18:00 **Plenary**

Theme: Changing practices and injecting urgency to fulfill the triple objectives of the CBD and meet to 2010 target and its framework of goals and sub-targets

President: Minister Marina Silva

Summaries of panel discussions presented by the Co-Chairs

Panelists: [to be announced]

Commentaries:

Format:

- 1 – summaries of opening plenary and four panels (25 minutes)
- 2 – response by panelists (35 minutes)
- 3 – response by representatives of major groups (30 minutes)
- 4 – general debate by Ministers (60 minutes)
- 5 – concluding remarks

Summary of discussions to be prepared by the President

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20:30 – 22:00 **Dinner**
Host: [to be announced]
Venue: [to be announced]

Wednesday, 29 March 2006

10:00 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 18:00 **Ministerial Plenary**

President: Brazil (Minister Marina Silva)
Venue: ExpoTrade Convention Center
Participants: Ministers + 1, stakeholders
Format: General discussion by Ministers

18:00 **Official closing of the Ministerial Segment** by the President, Minister Marina Silva

Summary of the conclusions of the Ministerial Segment to be prepared by the President

Thursday, 30 March 2006

10:00 – 12:00

Minister Marina Silva presents her summary of the conclusions of the Ministerial Segment to the Conference of the Parties, followed by a press conference