

Greenpeace Intervention on SBSTTA13-03 Final Plenary

22nd Feb 2008

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

on behalf of Greenpeace we are neither 'inviting' nor 'welcoming' Brazil – nor any other Party - to put our statement in square brackets.

Dear delegates, unfortunately, this SBSTTA meeting will NOT be remembered as the a productive meeting in the history of CBD. Instead of focusing on science and giving decisive recommendations, this SBSTTA has become a rehearsal for political negotiation at MOP/COP meeting in Bonn. Let us just hope that this Convention will NOT be buried in Bonn.

Despite the will and commitment displayed by the overwhelming majority of parties - in particular the European Group - to act on the best available science, as well the outstanding work of the Secretariat, a handful of Parties extensively used procedural tactics to prevent this meeting from achieving its intended purposes. These include in particular **Brazil**, Argentina and Canada, and to lesser extent Australia, Malaysia, Finland, Austria and Cuba.

Greenpeace is appalled by the role these Parties have played in obstructing protection for forest, marine, agricultural and inland water biodiversity.

BRAZIL, the present presidency of this convention, has been most active in obstructing progress during the past two weeks, in manner never been seen before. Frankly, BRAZIL has risked to marginalise and weaken this convention. Brazil normally presents herself as the advocate of developing countries, how does that fit with obstructing multilateral progress within this convention, which invariably will be on the back of the poorest in developing countries.

Delaying the negotiations by systematically inserting hundreds of unqualified proposals and brackets, as Brazil has done, won't make the threats to biodiversity disappear:

In the case of agrofuels, the absence of action from this meeting will further promote their unsustainable productions; on the back of the last remaining intact forests.

Few days ago Brazil approved a genetically engineered corn from Monsanto (MON810) that has been rejected elsewhere due to environmental uncertainties. Let us hope that this doesn't augurs a disregard of environmental issue by the government of Brazil.

Two days ago - ahead of the major Climate Change Forum to be opened on February 20th by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva - senior executives of more than 15 leading forestry companies and organizations announced their vision of tropical forestry for the year 2015. They requested, amongst others, policies for a global coherent public sector procurement policies, demanding credible certified legal and sustainable wood products. They also demanded that that it is illegal to import, trade or use tropical wood products from illegal sources. CLEARLY; THIS CONVENTION IS MISSING THE BOAT.

Dear delegates, this SBSTTA has left many critical issues unresolved - CRITICAL for the future of the World's last intact/natural forests and oceans.

There are only 3 Month until Bonn. The world expects you to come back with the commitments from your governments to take urgent action to address one of the two global environmental crises - the dramatic loss of biodiversity and livelihoods. The donor countries must meet their long- and outstanding obligations under this convention to provide new and additional financial support for the implementation in developing countries through an immediate initiative.

Delegates, we believe the SBSTTA process and the CBD itself has been called into question through this meeting. More threatened still, is this planet's biodiversiy.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.