



International Chamber of Commerce

The world business organization

ICC Intervention on behalf of the business delegation on Engagement of the Private Sector, 20 May 2008
UN CBD 9th Conference of the Parties (COP) Meeting, Working Group II, Bonn, Germany

Intervention Presented by Michael D. Hauser

- The ICC is encouraged by the Executive Secretary's firm support in integrating business into all aspect so the CBD negotiations. This has been his strong view since COP 8 and our mandate to help him accomplish. We welcome the activities and the progress made in supporting business involvement through the development of information exchange and sharing of best practices. In particular we would like to express our appreciation for the Lisbon Conference on Business and Biodiversity and the establishment of the CBD Business Newsletter, which we believe can be a useful instrument to inform Parties of business views.
- However, business involvement must go beyond information sharing, awareness raising and development of best practices. The experience and knowledge of business as an active stakeholder in the Convention's implementation can make valuable contributions in the development and revision of policies for biodiversity conservation. Making use of these experiences requires active participation of business stakeholders throughout the process.
- COP decision VIII/17 calls for Parties to engage business stakeholders in the revision of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The decision also encourages Parties to supported business involvement by including private sector representatives on national delegations to SBSTTA and COP meetings.
- Both of these measures would allow the business community to provide feedback and advice based on its hands-on experience in biodiversity conservation. However, there have been few efforts by countries to promote these measures.
- Along these lines we would like to emphasize priority area 3 and call upon Parties to take concrete steps to further engage business in the work of the Convention.