

A final decision on the location of the permanent secretariat will be taken at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention to be held in Indonesia in November 1995. Three other cities are also bidding to host the permanent secretariat: Geneva, Madrid, and Nairobi.

The Convention on Biological Diversity was one of the major achievements of the 1992 Rio de Janeiro "Earth Summit." Canadian officials played an active role in the negotiation of the Convention and Canada was the first industrialized country to ratify it.

Funding for the federal government's contribution was provided for in the February 1995 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework. The contribution would only be made if Montreal's bid is successful.

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