

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Hamdallah Zedan (Egypt) obtained his Ph.D. in Microbiology in 1973 from Université de Montreal. He held teaching positions and directed research programmes in industrial microbiology at the Universities of Montreal, Cairo, Aleppo and Tripoli. In 1980, he prepared an overview of the world's plant, animal and microbial genetic resources for the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). H. Zedan has more than 60 publications in the fields of industrial microbiology, genetic resources and biosafety.

In 1983, H. Zedan left Cairo University as a professor of Microbiology to join UNEP in Nairobi, Kenya, as a Senior Programme Officer – Genetic Resources. Of his many achievements in this capacity was the development of UNEP's work programme on genetic resources.

In 1990, as the Coordinator, Biodiversity and Biotechnology programmes, he was responsible for the development of UNEP's biodiversity programme since its inception as well as for biotechnology and biosafety issues. In January 1996, H. Zedan was appointed Chief of the Biodiversity Unit in UNEP. H. Zedan was fully involved in the conception and negotiations of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). He was closely associated with the negotiations and adoption by governments of the UNEP International Technical Guidelines for Safety in Biotechnology.

H. Zedan was the Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity since October 1998. The Secretary General of the United Nations approved the appointment of H. Zedan as the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity with effect from 1 August 1999.
