

Dr Cyrie Sendashonga

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Cyrie Sendashonga is trained as a biologist, with specialization in molecular biology and cellular immunology. Since July 1999, she holds the position of Senior Programme Officer at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) based in Montreal, Canada, where she is the Head of the Biosafety Programme. In this capacity, she is responsible for guiding, leading and coordinating the activities carried out by the CBD Secretariat in support of the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Before joining the CBD Secretariat, Cyrie Sendashonga spent six years (1992-1998) at the UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, where she was involved in the programme activities dealing with biodiversity and biotechnology issues. Among other activities, her focus centered initially (1992-1995) on the UNEP sub-programme on microbial resources and related biotechnologies that could be utilized for sound environmental management.

Before joining the United Nations, Cyrie Sendashonga spent her post-graduation years (1979-1986) working at the International Laboratory for Research on Animal Diseases (ILRAD, which later became ILRI, based in Nairobi, Kenya), one of the Centers belonging to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), conducting research which was focusing on developing new approaches to control parasitic infections in livestock animals.

Ms. Sendashonga is of Rwandese nationality. In recent years, she has co-authored several papers on the subject of biosafety, in particular with regard to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and has made numerous presentations on the Protocol to various audiences (academic institutions; policy-makers and resource managers meetings, including high level ministerial conferences; scientific gatherings; civil society forums; etc.).