

Worku Yifru

Mr. Yifru is the Senior Legal Adviser at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity which is administered by the United Nations Environment Programme. He is the Head of the Legal and Intergovernmental Affairs Unit. He is environmental lawyer with over 30 years experience working on environment and development issues, both at the national and international levels.

Prior to starting his international career, Mr. Yifru was in charge of the Policy and Legislation Department of the Environmental Protection Agency of his native country, Ethiopia, where he led important processes, such as the preparation and adoption of Environmental Policy, and the drafting of the basic environmental laws of the country. He was the Director of Ethiopian Conservation Strategy Initiative through which the Environmental Policy, the first ever for the country, was developed along with implementation strategies. He was also a part-time lecturer on Environment and Natural Resources Law at the Civil Service University of Ethiopia.

After joining the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Yifru contributed, among other things, in facilitating the rapid entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. He served as the secretary of the Compliance Committee under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety for several years. He was also the secretary of the Working Group which negotiated the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress, a treaty that provides liability rules for damage caused by the transboundary movement of genetically modified organisms.

Mr. Yifru has LL.B. from the Law Faculty of Addis Ababa University, and LL.M. in Environmental Law, from the London School of Economics and Political Science.