**Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabher**

Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabher was an Ethiopian scientist who was instrumental for the development and adoption of multilateral environmental agreements, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.

He was the Director General of the Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority of Ethiopia. During his years as the top official of the environmental agency of his country, he played a pivotal role in the negotiations of several multilateral environmental agreements.

During the last phase of the negotiations of the Biosafety Protocol, Tewolde was the spokesperson for the majority of the G77 countries. In January 2000, the negotiations reached a successful conclusion in Montreal. Tewolde's leadership was key in the conclusion of the negotiations.

He received the [Rights Livelihood Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Right_Livelihood_Award) in 2000 and other awards such as the Champions of the Earth (UNEP), for his extraordinary contributions to the negotiations and the promotion of the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and community rights over their genetic resources and traditional knowledge.

Tewolde passed away on 20 March 2023 at the age of 83. You my visit his memorial page at this link:

[https://www.forevermissed.com/tbge/about](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.forevermissed.com%2Ftbge%2Fabout&data=05%7C01%7Culrika.nilsson%40un.org%7C60aafcea011e4169b19708dbb3055b7f%7C0f9e35db544f4f60bdcc5ea416e6dc70%7C0%7C0%7C638300607825582555%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=d2eMaew5AW60Nqxqnfl7zI8DP5M2HICO9uVAK1hepsQ%3D&reserved=0)

**Viet Koester**

Viet Koester was a Danish lawyer who was instrumental for the development and implementation of several environmental agreements, including the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. He was the Chair of the Working Group that negotiated the Biosafety Protocol between 1996 and 1999. Following the entry into force of the Biosafety Protocol, Viet served for two terms as the chair of the Compliance Committee under the Protocol.

Viet worked with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, where he wrote the IUCN’s study in 1980 on *Nordic Countries Legislation on the Environment* Through the IUCN, he was also instrumental in the negotiations on the Convention on Biological Diversity in late 80’s and early 90’sHe was also the Vice Chair of the committee of States that negotiated the terms of the Bonn Convention on Migratory Species and chaired the diplomatic Extraordinary Conference of 1987 that strengthened the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. He chaired the Compliance Committee of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Participation in Decision-making, and Access to Justice.

He has received several rewards including the Elisabeth Haub Award for Environmental Diplomacy (2000), the UNEP Global 500 Award (1996), the CITES Golden Pin (2002) and the Environmental Law Prize of the Danish Society for Environmental law (2010).

 Viet Koester passed away on 26 September 2021.