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Foreword

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FOREWORD

The 1990's have been a period of immense change in the field of International Law. The world has witnessed the break-up of the Soviet Union; the unification of Germany; the invasion of Panama; the Persian Gulf War; the severe ethnic and religious conflict in the former Yugoslavia; the hunger in Somalia; the end of Apartheid in South Africa; and the forceful change of government in Haiti. Each of these events was influenced by individual nations and the United Nations. Every occurrence has repercussions that affect not only the region, but the entire world.

Environmental concerns of these and many other governments differ with respect to internal and international politics. Quite often, seemingly positive national agendas negatively affect international biodiversity. For example, the mineral and timber production in the rainforests reap economic benefits yet devastate complex biospheres. There has been a recent awareness of the need to address the issue of severe long term environmental effects resulting from economic agendas.

A desire to tackle these world problems is evident in the Rio Declaration on Biodiversity and the Biodiversity Treaty. This was an event in which industrialized countries and developing nations came together as a world community to resolve a planetary issue. The implementation and interpretation of this treaty will affect economic and environmental concerns well into the Twenty-First Century.

The Buffalo Journal of International Law is proud to present its second issue on Biodiversity and Biotechnology. We are also proud to note that the new Editorial Board for Academic Year 1994-95 has shown tremendous enthusiasm and dedication towards publishing this issue. Finally, the Editorial Board looks forward to the next Volume which focuses on the issue of Human Rights.

We hope you enjoy this Issue and we thank you for your continuing support and interest in the *Journal*.