



**Mr. Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabher**

Mr. Tewolde Berhan Gebre Egziabher is a promoter of policies and programmes to enforce the safeguard of biodiversity and the traditional rights of farmers and communities to their genetic resources acting as Director General of the Ethiopian Ministry of the Environment. In the 1990s he was a leading advocate for the progressive stand to stop the patenting of living material in favour of community rights at many international biodiversity forums held by the FAO and for the Convention on Biological Diversity. In 2000 he received the Right Livelihood Award (often referred to as the Alternative Nobel Prize). In 2006, he was also one of the winners of the United Nations top environmental prize Champions of the Earth.