

22 September 2010

## **High-Level Meeting on Biodiversity**

### **Background**

As a contribution to the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, which the General Assembly proclaimed in 2006 to stress the necessity to reverse the continued loss of biodiversity (A/RES/61/203), the General Assembly convened a High-level Meeting on Biodiversity on 22 September 2010.

Attended by Heads of State, Government and delegation, this meeting provided a valuable opportunity to generate awareness at the highest level of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, namely:

1. conservation of biodiversity;
2. sustainable use of the components of biodiversity; and
3. fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.

### **Programme**

9 - 10 am : Opening Plenary (General Assembly Hall)

10 am - 1 pm: Morning Panel on “The way forward in achieving the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the internationally agreed biodiversity goals and targets” (NLB Conference Room 2)

3 - 5 pm: Afternoon Panel on the same theme as above (NLB Conference Room 2)

6 - 7 pm: Closing Plenary (General Assembly Hall)

**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON BIODIVERSITY**

**22 September 2010, New York**

**PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

Today, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, world leaders met for the first time for the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Biodiversity and reaffirmed the political will to reverse the alarming loss of biodiversity occurring throughout our planet.

I am very pleased to present to you a summary of today's meaningful discussions, which I will transmit to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10) to be held next month in Nagoya, Japan.

First, Member States and other participants emphasized the importance of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, especially in poverty eradication. They drew attention to the fact that continued biodiversity loss can have particularly adverse impact on the poor and other populations that depend on natural resources such as for fisheries and agriculture.

In order to protect biodiversity and its many services, including clean water, medicine and buffer against natural disasters, Member States and other participants noted that it is important to fully achieve the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In this regard, they attached great significance to securing successful outcomes at COP10. This meeting will address three inter-connected issues: access to and benefit-sharing of genetic resources; post-2010 strategic plan for biodiversity; and international support for the implementation of biodiversity strategies in developing countries. They recognised that progress on one would depend upon progress on the other two issues.

While noting the progress made to date for the negotiation of the draft Protocol on access to and benefit-sharing of genetic resources, Member States and other participants shared the concern that some issues are still outstanding. They called for a stronger political impetus and flexibility by all Parties in the negotiations to ensure the adoption of an effective Protocol at the Nagoya meeting.

COP10 presents an important opportunity to adopt a post-2010 strategic plan that contains ambitious, measurable and time-bound biodiversity targets for 2020. This plan would provide a common framework for action on biodiversity at the international, regional, national and local levels, and across various issues, from terrestrial and marine protected areas to combating of ocean acidification. In order to translate the strategic plan into concrete outcome, it needs to be

integrated into national biodiversity targets and strategies. A United Nations Decade for Biodiversity as well as the multi-year plan of action for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development would support the implementation of the new strategic plan.

Furthermore, noting the important linkage between scientific knowledge to effective policy-making, Member States and other participants stressed the importance of establishing an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and welcomed the progress achieved at the UNEP-facilitated intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting held in June 2010 in Busan, Republic of Korea.

The true economic values of biodiversity and the ecosystem services it underpins are now being identified to their full extent. Member States and other participants considered it important that such investigation continue as a matter of priority. They called for strengthening the biodiversity and economy nexus by incorporating the true values of biodiversity into economic theory, financial planning and investments in all sectors, as well as in policy and planning processes at all levels. Green economy, The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) and payments for ecosystem services were mentioned as important concepts and initiatives.

Member states and other participants also recognised that biodiversity and healthy ecosystems are an essential part of solution to the challenges of climate change. They noted that there are substantial benefits to be gained from the coherent implementation of the three Rio conventions as well as other biodiversity-related conventions. For example, initiatives for reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) could provide co-benefits for biodiversity and local livelihoods. The upcoming Nagoya and Cancun meetings later this year and the Rio+20 Conference in 2012 provide timely opportunities to ensure that measures taken under the related Conventions are mutually supportive.

Recognising that many countries lack the resources and capabilities to effectively implement their biodiversity strategies and commitments, Member States and participants called for bold action to ensure that these countries have access to financial resources and technology transfer. They also called for increased capacity building and scientific and technical cooperation.

In addition, Member States and other participants emphasized the need to mobilize civil society and the private sector. Indigenous and local communities and women and youth should be fully involved in the implementation of the new biodiversity strategic plan.

Finally, noting the Geneva Call for Action issued by the past and future presidencies of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Member States and participants noted that if current rates of biodiversity loss are not reversed, there will be drastic consequences for human societies.

They recognized the need for coordinated and urgent action across all sectors of government and society to address the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss. There is a need to reform our means of production, consumption and economic growth to ensure that we live within the ecological limits. Together, we can find ways to protect the “Mother Earth” and live in harmony with nature. Thank you.

22 September 2010

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss,  
President of the 65<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly,  
at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly as a  
Contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity**

Heads of State and Government,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

"Biodiversity is central to life"

In proclaiming 2010 the Year of Biodiversity, the General Assembly launched an appeal for celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity. The Year of Biodiversity is an invitation to take action - not only this year, but in all the years to come - to safeguard the diversity of life on earth.

I am very happy that a meeting of the General Assembly is being held at the beginning of the sixty-fifth session as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, and I welcome you to this meeting.

Biodiversity has always been essential to the existence of humankind. But it is often difficult to raise awareness of its importance and, above all, of the risks entailed by its loss. And yet....

We get our food from plants and animals, insects ensure pollination and are an essential link in the food chain, rainwater becomes drinkable by being filtered through soil and the oxygen that we breathe comes from the photosynthesis of algae and green plants.

Today, biodiversity is being lost throughout the world, largely as a result of the actions of human beings. Climate change is further worsening this problem. What is more, degradation of many of the essential services rendered by ecosystems is threatening to undermine progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

While we are all threatened by the loss of biodiversity, the consequences are even more serious for the poorest among us. Many biodiversity-rich areas are in developing countries whose people are particularly dependent on agriculture, fishing and forestry for their subsistence.

It is encouraging that the international community is mobilizing in response to this threat. The 2002 adoption of the "2010 biodiversity target" was a milestone. This target - which was also included in the Millennium Goal on the environment - has not been reached, but many States have used it as a basis for concrete biodiversity protection measures.

Furthermore, many initiatives are aimed at finding a better balance between biodiversity and the economy and measuring the economic value of the services rendered by ecosystems. A better understanding of the cost of biodiversity loss is essential to increasing the effectiveness of our efforts to preserve it. It is essential if businesses are to recognize the advantages of biodiversity and move towards more environmentally friendly patterns of production and a green economy.

We must continue our efforts.

Quite recently, last June, in Busan, Republic of Korea, the international community decided to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform in order to bridge the gap between scientific knowledge about deterioration of the natural environment and action by governments. This is a major breakthrough for the organization of a coherent, effective multilateral response to biodiversity loss.

Next month, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will be held in Nagoya, Japan, where the new strategic plan for the Convention will be adopted. I hope that our discussions today at this high-level meeting will make a useful contribution to the negotiations to be conducted in Nagoya in order to ensure that the new plan is exhaustive, ambitious and attainable.

Heads of State and Government,  
Mr. Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

The preservation of biodiversity is inseparable from efforts to tackle poverty, to improve the health, prosperity and security of present and future generations, and to deal with climate change. Preserving biodiversity is not a luxury; it is a duty.

[Translation from French]

# ARGENTINA

## *“REUNION DE ALTO NIVEL COMO CONTRIBUCION AL AÑO INTERNACIONAL DE LA DIVERSIDAD BIOLOGICA”*

*El camino a seguir para lograr los tres objetivos del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica y las metas y los objetivos sobre la biodiversidad convenidos Internacionalmente*

Intervención del Dr. Homero Máximo BIBILONI  
Secretario de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sustentable de la  
República Argentina

*Nueva York, 22 de septiembre 2010*  
*Sírvase verificar durante lectura*

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## *“HIGH-LEVEL MEETING AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY”*

*The way forward in achieving the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the internationally agreed biodiversity goals and targets*

Statement by Dr. Homero Máximo BIBILONI  
Secretary for Environment and Sustainable Development

*New York, September 22<sup>d</sup>, 2010*  
*Check against delivery*

Es un honor presentar la visión de mi gobierno sobre el inmenso desafío que constituye proteger y conservar la biodiversidad para las generaciones presentes y futuras.

La Argentina reconoce el gran valor que la diversidad biológica tiene para el bienestar humano y la importancia de responder adecuadamente a los retos que se plantean para su conservación y uso sustentable. Del mismo modo, resaltamos que es esencial asegurar el reparto equitativo de los beneficios derivados de la utilización de los recursos genéticos.

Reconocemos la gran contribución de la Convención de la Diversidad Biológica para movilizar acciones a nivel global, regional y nacional que den respuesta a las múltiples amenazas que enfrenta la biodiversidad a escala planetaria, así como los invalorable aportes de otras convenciones vinculadas con la protección de la diversidad biológica desde diversos aspectos o problemáticas específicas tales como CITES, CMS, la Convención de Ramsar sobre Humedales, etc. por sólo citar algunas de ellas.

En el marco de la Convención de Biodiversidad, la Argentina sostiene que es necesario lograr la aplicación equilibrada de los tres objetivos de la Convención.

Cabe señalar que de estos, el primero, la conservación de la biodiversidad, es el que registra mayor grado de avance, básicamente a través del aumento en la cantidad y superficie de áreas protegidas.

El segundo objetivo, el uso sustentable de la diversidad biológica, ha verificado un grado de avance sensiblemente menor.

Con respecto al tercero, el acceso y la participación equitativa en los beneficios derivados de la utilización de los recursos genéticos, el estado de situación evidencia un progreso claramente insuficiente. En este sentido, promovemos firmemente la adopción de un Protocolo sobre Acceso y Participación en los beneficios derivados de la utilización de los recursos genéticos en Nagoya, de conformidad con el mandato dado por las Partes de la CDB.

Por otra parte, la Argentina aboga por que exista un equilibrio entre las acciones y metas propuestas y el volumen de recursos financieros y no financieros disponibles para la creación de capacidades en los países en desarrollo, principales depositarios de la biodiversidad en el planeta.

En numerosas ocasiones, los países en desarrollo hemos reiterado la necesidad de incrementar los recursos, tanto financieros como institucionales y humanos, para lograr la aplicación plena de la Convención. En este sentido, la Argentina apoya firmemente la meta 20 del nuevo Plan Estratégico que se refiere a aumentar sustancialmente la capacidad de los países, multiplicando por diez la asistencia de los países desarrollados a los países en desarrollo para la creación de capacidades.

Asimismo, entendemos que el diseño y aplicación de medidas de conservación de la biodiversidad no deben generar barreras proteccionistas que supongan nuevas cargas para los países en desarrollo. En tal sentido, es importante para la Argentina que las medidas que se adopten a nivel global garanticen la protección de fuentes de trabajo en el país, las condiciones locales de producción primaria y el establecimiento de un sistema de comercio internacional abierto, que evite las barreras proteccionistas de orden ambiental que pudieran afectar la exportación de productos nacionales. Es necesario también profundizar las sinergias con otros instrumentos y foros internacionales afines, respetando el ámbito de competencia de cada uno de ellos.

Por otra parte, con el mismo nivel de prioridad, Argentina entiende que todas las acciones que se diseñen e implementen para alcanzar los objetivos de la CDB deben tener como base una relación armónica entre los tres pilares del Desarrollo Sustentable, reconociendo la importancia de los aspectos sociales, económicos y ambientales y la necesaria articulación equilibrada entre ellos, a través de políticas coordinadas.

Los esfuerzos de la Argentina por incorporar la biodiversidad en los planes y políticas nacionales no son una novedad. Basta con mencionar la Estrategia Nacional de Biodiversidad, elaborada en 2002 y adoptada por Resolución 91/2003, el establecimiento de áreas protegidas que cubren una superficie cercana al 10% del territorio continental sudamericano de la

Argentina, algunas de las cuales ya cuentan con más de un siglo de existencia. Además, en los últimos años hemos profundizado y ampliado el alcance de estas acciones, incorporando normativas tales como la ley de Presupuestos Mínimos de Protección Ambiental de los Bosques Nativos que reconoce los beneficios tangibles e intangibles generados por los ecosistemas de los bosques nativos y en particular el valor que tienen para la conservación de la biodiversidad, y la Resolución 226/2010 sobre acceso a los recursos genéticos y reparto equitativo de los beneficios derivados de su utilización, por sólo mencionar algunos ejemplos.

Asimismo, durante los últimos veinte años el país ha sido un protagonista activo en las negociaciones internacionales, dirigidas a fortalecer la agenda ambiental internacional y el concepto de Desarrollo Sustentable.

Para hacer efectivo este objetivo, Argentina se pronuncia sobre la necesidad de asegurar el flujo internacional de recursos financieros y de transferencia de tecnología, que permita a los países en desarrollo implementar las obligaciones que resultan de los acuerdos multilaterales sin que ello comprometa sus metas legítimas de desarrollo sustentable. Sería paradójico terminar siendo en lugar de acreedores ambientales, deudores por incumplimiento de metas imposibles. Argentina propende a la creación de un esquema de cooperación internacional en el que se respete plenamente el principio de responsabilidades comunes de todos los Estados en material ambiental, pero diferenciadas en razón de sus capacidades relativas.

La Argentina reitera su compromiso con los objetivos de la Convención y continuará trabajando con ímpetu en pos de los mismos, e invita a las Partes a aunar esfuerzos en este sentido, para preservar la biodiversidad y garantizar el bienestar de las generaciones presentes y futuras.

I am very pleased to present my Government's vision on the vast challenge that we face in the protection of biodiversity for present and future generations.

Argentina is aware of the great value of biodiversity to human wellbeing, and of the importance of responding in an adequate manner to the challenges posed by its conservation and sustainable use. Also, we would like to point out that it is essential to ensure the equitable sharing of the benefits derived of the utilization of genetic resources.

We recognize the tremendous contribution of the Biodiversity Convention to mobilize actions that provide response to the multiple threats that biodiversity faces at a planetary scale, at the global, regional and national level, as well as the valued inputs from other conventions related with the protection of biodiversity through diverse aspects or through specific issues such as CITES, CMS, and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, etc, among others.

Argentina believes that it is necessary to achieve a balanced application of the Convention of Biodiversity. It is important to note that the objective of conservation of biodiversity reports a greater level of progress due to the increase in the amount and the surface of protected areas. The second objective, the sustainable utilization of biodiversity, has made considerably less progress. Regarding the third, access and equitable sharing of the benefits derived of the utilization of genetic resources; we must say that progress has been clearly insufficient. In this sense, we firmly promote the adoption of a Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing of the benefits derived of the utilization of genetic resources in Nagoya, in conformity with the mandate by the Parties of the CBD.

On the other hand, Argentina advocates for a balance between the actions and proposed objectives and the amount of available financial and non financial resources for capacity building in developing states, main bearers of biodiversity in the planet. In numerous occasions, we developing countries have recalled the need to increase financial, institutional and human resources, to achieve the implementation of the Convention. In this sense, Argentina firmly supports objective 20 of the new Strategic Plan, which refers to the substantial increase of the capacity of countries, multiplying ten times the aid from developed to developing States for capacity building.

Nevertheless, we understand that the design and the implementation of biodiversity conservation measures shall not generate protectionist barriers that may result in additional burdens to the developing countries. It is therefore important that all measures adopted at a global level guarantee the protection of jobs in Argentina, the local conditions of primary production, and the establishment of an open system of international trade, with no environmental protectionist measures that could affect the exports of national products. It is also necessary to deepen the synergies with other instruments and international fora, with due respect of the mandates of each one of them.

Also, with the same level of priority, Argentina understands that all the actions designed and implemented to achieve the objectives in the CBD must be based in a harmonious relation among the three pillars of Sustainable Development, recognizing the importance of social, economic and environmental aspects and articulated in a balanced manner, through coordinated policies.

Argentina's efforts to incorporate biodiversity to national plans and policies are not a novelty. It suffices to mention the 2002 Biodiversity National Strategy, adopted by Resolution 91/2003, which establishes protected areas that cover nearly 10% of the South American continental territory, having some of these areas more that a century of existence. In addition, in the last years, we have broadened these actions, passing laws such as, for example, the Minimum Standards for the Protection of Native Forests that recognizes the tangible and intangible benefits generated by native forests' ecosystems and in particular their value for biodiversity conservation, and Resolution 226/2010 on access to genetic resources and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their utilization.

During the last 20 years, Argentina has actively participated in international negotiations directed towards strengthening the international environmental agenda and the concept of Sustainable Development.

To make this objective effective, Argentina is convinced that the international mobilization of financial resources and technology transfer are necessary to allow developing countries to implement the obligations that result from multilateral agreements without compromising their sustainable development objectives. It would be a contradiction to end up being, instead of environmental creditors, debtors through the non compliance of impossible objectives. Argentina promotes the creation of an international cooperation scheme that fully respects the principle of common responsibilities of States in environmental matters, but differentiated depending on the relative capacities of States.

Argentina reiterates its commitment with the objectives of the Convention and will continue working to achieve them, and invites the Parties to unite their efforts in order to preserve biodiversity and guarantee the wellbeing of present and future delegations.



# AUSTRALIA



**AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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## **HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY**

**22 SEPTEMBER 2010**

## **THE WAY FORWARD IN ACHIEVING THE THREE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE INTERNATIONALLY AGREED BIODIVERSITY GOALS AND TARGETS**

**Statement of Australia to the United Nations**

**Dr Ruth Adler, Assistant Secretary, Environment Branch,  
Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.**

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Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Australia believes that **timely action** is the key to achieving the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the internationally agreed biodiversity goals and targets.

Australia is one of the world's 17 mega-diverse countries, with around 10 per cent of the world's biodiversity and 80 per cent of this endemic to our continent.

We are proud of our unique environment, including 15 of Australia's 17 World Heritage sites listed for their outstanding natural and cultural values. Biodiversity conservation is a priority for the Australian Government, and continues to be a particular focus in 2010 – the **International Year of Biodiversity**.

Australia appreciates that biodiversity plays a key role in maintaining the well-being of the globe. Australia considers equal attention must be given to the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In doing so, parties will contribute to the continued provision of the ecosystem upon which we all depend.

Australia considers conserving biodiversity is an integral part of its commitment to the **Millennium Development Goals** for reducing global poverty. In 2010, Australia pledged AUD 105 million to the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility to support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the maintenance of ecosystem goods and services.

In our region, we have acted in support of the **Coral Triangle Initiative in the Asia Pacific** region, which covers 75 per cent of all known coral species while providing food and livelihoods for generations to come.

Australia is committed to working with others for successful outcomes at the tenth Conference of the Parties to the **Convention on Biological Diversity** in Nagoya, Japan, next month. Australia will continue to work constructively to **finalise an international regime** on access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, drawing from the ABS model we have implemented successfully at a national level. In addition, Australia considers that the finalisation of the revised **strategic plan** and **revised biodiversity targets** will be priority outcomes.

The Australian Government is aware of the impacts of **climate change** on biodiversity. Australia recognizes that **reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation** in developing countries can help combat climate change, as well as provide opportunities for enhanced biodiversity conservation, and welcomes the initiative of Japan to host meetings on **REDD+** during the Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity next month.

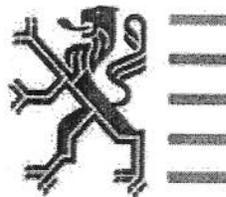
Looking domestically, Australia has a number of national initiatives underway during the **International Year of Biodiversity**. **National Adaptation Research Plans** are being developed to foster understanding of the impacts of climate change on terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity. **Climate Change Adaptation Plans** for ecosystems of national importance, including the Great Barrier Reef are being developed. Over 200 private land managers have been contracted under the new **Environmental Stewardship Program** to conserve almost 27,000 hectares of critically endangered native woodlands.

Almost 13 per cent of Australia's land and ten percent of Australia's waters have been declared **protected areas** – a fundamental contribution to protecting Australia's biodiversity. Included in these protected areas are thirty nine

**Indigenous Protected Areas** which cover 23.5 million hectares of Indigenous owned land.

Australia welcomes increased global focus on biodiversity conservation and is therefore supportive of the proposal to extend the **International Year on Biodiversity** to an **International Decade on Biodiversity**. Australia will continue its efforts to **act** in 2010, and beyond, both domestically and internationally to contribute to the safeguarding of the world's biodiversity.

Thank you.



**Belgian intervention**  
**High-Level Meeting on Biodiversity – UN General Assembly**  
**Wednesday 22 September 2010**

**Joke Schauvliege, Minister for Environment, Nature and Culture**  
**Chair of the European Environment Council**  
*(only the spoken word prevails)*

Mr. President,  
 Mr. Secretary General,  
 Your Excellencies,

There is no doubt - it has been repeated here several times - biodiversity plays a critical role in overall sustainable development and poverty eradication.

So, we share a common cause: to maintain biodiversity and avoid irreversible damage to ecosystems and their functions, in order to secure social and economic stability and to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

Sustainable use of genetic resources for food and agriculture, as well as the conservation of agricultural land are of key importance for improving food security. Furthermore, as the world population is growing, it depends also on the sustainable use of marine resources. We need to take all necessary measures to protect biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction and accelerate the implementation of the 2012 target. The recent scientific finding that the world's coral reefs have bleached due to this year's extreme heat, shows the magnitude of the problem. But let us not tilt towards pessimism.

COP-10 will adopt a new Strategic Plan. This has to be embraced beyond the CBD in order to provide an effective framework for implementing biodiversity commitments. This high-level meeting is therefore an unique opportunity to facilitate integration of biodiversity throughout the UN System.

Ladies and gentlemen, excellencies,

We are all committed to successful negotiations in Nagoya. To implement our commitments we must ensure the necessary means, including human, institutional, scientific and financial resources. An ambitious strategic plan as well as a process towards sustainable capacity and adequate financing for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is of utmost importance. In particular by elaborating the indicators and targets for the Resource Mobilization Strategy, by supporting the integration of

biodiversity into financial-economic systems and by building on the opportunities provided by other processes, especially the UN Conference on Sustainable Development and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Financing of activities to mitigate and adapt to climate change should contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. We should explore innovative forms of public and private financing, including payments for ecosystem services. We strengthen actions to reverse the loss of forest biodiversity. At global level we support the initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD), and forest conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (REDD+), based on an active participation by developing countries.

A successful outcome in Nagoya will also depend on the results of the negotiations on the international ABS regime. We call upon Parties to demonstrate conviction to come to an agreement.

Also the establishment of an Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is of high importance. IPBES should be a tool to integrate biodiversity within all related institutions and actors.

We all agree that ecosystem services provide an immense richness. We have to make this economically visible. We need to incorporate the emerging knowledge in all processes relevant to biodiversity. I will persevere to promote the TEEB study and I will develop actions in response to it and encourage others to do so.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The EU and the global biodiversity 2010 target have not been met. Still, it remains essential to set a strong and ambitious goal to generate actions. The new strategic plan needs to reflect the full range of values of biodiversity and ecosystem functions, goods and services. It needs to encourage sustainable use as well as better integration of the economic value into policy frameworks, economic planning and national accounting.

The vision, mission and targets must be embraced beyond the CBD by all institutions, organizations and processes concerned to facilitate adoption of appropriate targets.

This is my appeal to all of you: we need urgent and effective action in order to avoid going beyond the limits of nature. If we have the conviction to give nature and mankind a prospect, we can't carry on with something like 'business as usual'.

Therefore, the scale of the problem must be communicated and necessary responses formulated in a understandable way to a wide audience, encourages commitments of civil society at large and fosters collective action.

As the chair of the Environment Council of the European Union, I will dedicate all my efforts to play an active and constructive role.

REPUBLIC OF  
BOTSWANA



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
BOTSWANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION,  
HON. PHANDU T.C. SKELEMANI AT THE HIGH LEVEL  
MEETING ON BIODIVERSITY**

**22 SEPTEMBER 2010**

*Check against Delivery*

Co-chairs,

1. I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to make a few remarks on this issue. This meeting comes at an opportune time when Member States of the United Nations are reviewing progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Most importantly, it comes at a time when the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity are preparing for their Tenth meeting scheduled to take place in October 2010, in Nagoya, Japan.

Co-chairs,

2. Environmental Sustainability cannot be attained without protection of biological resources.
3. Therefore, the adoption of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) in 1992 was thus a confirmation that the international community recognized and accepted that the protection of biodiversity is pivotal to environmental sustainability. In fact, biodiversity is a source of life.
4. The implementation of the objectives of the Convention and the target of reducing biodiversity loss as reflected in the Strategic Plan of the CBD for the Period 2011-2020 is therefore not an option but a compelling undertaking to contribute significantly to sustainable development.

Co-chairs,

5. It is unfortunate that the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook reflects that the global 2010 biodiversity targets have not been met as there is still a continued loss of biodiversity, reduced freshwater resources, increasing poverty and reduced resilience levels by ecosystems. This clearly calls for the scaling up of our efforts to reverse these trends.

Co-chairs,

6. Botswana has made significant strides in honouring her obligations under the Convention on Biodiversity since ratification in 2001. In fact, policy and legislative measures geared towards biodiversity protection had been in existence prior to ratification of this Convention.
7. Furthermore, at least 40% of the total land area in Botswana has been designated as '*protected area*'. This is made up of national parks, game reserves, concession areas, wildlife management areas and forest reserves.

Co-chairs,

8. Our efforts to implement biodiversity action plan are hampered by limited financial and technical capacity as well as the negative impact of climate change.
9. In this regard, I would like to appeal to our cooperating partners to provide predictable technical and financial resources to help enhance our capacity to implement sound biodiversity programmes, in accordance with our national priorities.

Co-chairs,

10. In conclusion, let me state that my country is keenly following the debates on Access and Benefit Sharing. In particular, we are looking forward to the adoption of a legally binding instrument which will, among other things, prevent biopiracy and ensures a fair and equitable benefit sharing mechanism at the Tenth biennial meeting of the Conference of Parties which will be held from 18-29 October in Nagoya, Japan.

Thank you.



## **BRAZIL**

### **Statement by H.E. Ms. Izabella Teixeira, Minister of the Environment, at the opening session of the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity**

**New York, 22 September 2010**

Your Excellency the President of the General Assembly, Your Excellency the Secretary-General, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

In 2006, Brazil hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. For us, that initiative was steeped in political and symbolic meaning, given the enormous responsibility Brazil has towards biodiversity. As a Megadiverse country, Brazil is aware of the strategic value of biodiversity, and of the attention and urgency we should dedicate to it.

Most scientists, politicians, business people and the civil society understand the role of biodiversity as the basis for sustainability. For no other purpose did the General Assembly adopt a resolution declaring 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity, and for no other reason we meet here today. This is definitely the time to transform our words and political discussions into action.

We should pave the way for a more sustainable society, since what we have at present is quite a disturbing picture: We have been unable to reduce the rate or the speed of the loss of biodiversity, as set out in the 2002 Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Not only has there been an absence of relevant signs of reduction of biodiversity loss, but indicators portray a growing deterioration of biodiversity worldwide.

One of the key messages of the 2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment is that, over the past century, certain economic sectors have benefited from the conversion of natural ecosystems and the exploitation of biodiversity. But these gains were achieved at the cost of increasing losses to biodiversity, degradation of ecosystem services and increase and spread of poverty.

We need strong and determined responses and political will to change this scenario - in particular in the run-up to the Rio+20 Conference. The conservation and sustainable use of biological resources are crucial not only to ensure continued benefits to local and indigenous communities, but also to create opportunities for sustainable development and poverty eradication for all.

Brazil is doing its part. According to the latest Global Biodiversity Outlook, Brazil was one of the few countries that contributed to clear up this picture. Under President Lula's leadership, Brazil has achieved significant results: we have created the greatest number of new protected areas in recent years, and we have managed to reduce to historical lows the deforestation rates. But much remains to be done.

I should highlight the important outcome we reached in South Korea for the establishment of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). By creating the adequate links between science, policymaking and capacity building through the provision of credible and relevant information on biodiversity and ecosystem services, IPBES will improve our understanding of the need for immediate action against the loss of biodiversity – as well as the consequences of inaction.

The lasting success of our efforts rests on decisions to be taken at the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the CBD, in Nagoya. We have been negotiating a Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing which is fundamental to overcome the implementation deficit of the Convention and to combat biopiracy. We have been discussing a new Strategic Plan for the period post-2010, and a new Strategy for Resource Mobilization. A central part of our future efforts must include support for national agendas to reach targets on biodiversity, ensuring country ownership and supported by predictable, additional and sufficient resources and technology.

These three elements – the Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, the Strategic Plan and the new Strategy for Resource Mobilization – are part of an indivisible package for COP-10. They should be considered, discussed and negotiated with the attention and urgency that the matter deserves.

If there is one reason for discussing the issue of biodiversity in such a high level perspective, as we are doing here today, that should be to rescue the spirit of the Rio-92 Conference, that led us to significant results such as the adoption of the CBD. I call on all to renew that same sentiment of commitment, of political will, and of ethical-moral responsibility for the well-being of current and future generations.

We need a deal in Nagoya. At this High-Level Meeting, we should raise the profile of biodiversity and galvanize the political will and engagement of all countries in support of this call to action.

Thank you.



**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY  
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**STATEMENT BY  
THE HONOURABLE JIM PRENTICE  
MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

**TO THE THEMATIC PANEL ON THE WAY FORWARD IN ACHIEVING  
THE THREE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY,  
AND THE INTERNATIONALLY AGREED BIODIVERSITY GOALS AND TARGETS**

**NEW YORK, 22 SEPTEMBER 2010**

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**DÉCLARATION DE  
L'HONORABLE JIM PRENTICE  
MINISTRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT**

**AU DÉBAT THÉMATIQUE SUR LA VOIE À  
SUIVRE POUR ATTEINDRE LES TROIS OBJECTIFS DE LA CONVENTION SUR LA  
DIVERSITÉ BIOLOGIQUE AINSI QUE LES BUTS ET OBJECTIFS CONVENUS À  
L'ÉCHELON INTERNATIONAL EN MATIÈRE DE BIODIVERSITÉ**

**NEW YORK, LE 22 SEPTEMBRE 2010**

Mr. President, fellow delegates,

A connection to nature comes easily to Canada.

Our achievements are clear for the world to see. For example, we have set aside almost 100 million hectares of land to protect natural habitat and species at risk, and we have set aside 4 million hectares of ocean. Further, since the inception of the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, the Government of Canada has contributed over \$100 million to 1853 on-the-ground projects aimed at targeting the recovery of species at risk. We have also grown our national park system by 30% in the past few years. The cornerstone to our commitment is strong and effective enforcement of our environmental and wildlife protection laws.

At this year's G8 Leaders' Summit, we committed to the Muskoka Declaration that underlines the importance of the way forward for progress under the Convention for Biological Diversity. Canada supports a post-2010 framework with ambitious but realistic targets. But we know that governments cannot act alone to meet targets on biodiversity.

The upcoming meeting of the convention provides an ideal opportunity to advance our global commitment to conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity. I am confident that we can make significant progress.

Monsieur le Président, collègues délégués,

Au Canada, il est naturel d'avoir un lien avec la nature.

Le monde entier peut témoigner de nos réalisations. Le Canada a notamment réservé près de 100 millions d'hectares de terre afin de protéger l'habitat naturel et les espèces en péril, et à ce nombre s'ajoute 4 millions d'hectares d'océan protégés. De plus, depuis la création du programme d'Intendance de l'habitat pour les espèces en péril, le gouvernement du Canada a versé plus de 100 millions de dollars à 1 853 projets sur le terrain visant à cibler le rétablissement des espèces en péril. Nous avons également élargi notre réseau de parcs nationaux, lequel s'est accru de 30 % au cours des dernières années. L'application rigoureuse et efficace des lois canadiennes en matière de protection de la faune et de l'environnement constitue la pierre angulaire de notre engagement.

Au Sommet des dirigeants du G8 de cette année, nous nous sommes engagés à l'égard de la déclaration de Muskoka qui souligne l'importance d'aller de l'avant en matière de progrès conformément à la Convention sur la diversité biologique. Le Canada appuie un cadre pour la période d'après 2010 en visant des objectifs à la fois ambitieux et réalistes. Mais nous savons que les gouvernements ne peuvent agir seuls s'ils veulent atteindre les objectifs relatifs à la biodiversité.



SECRETARÍA PRO-TÉMPORE

CHILE

2010-2012

Declaración a nombre del Grupo de Río  
de la Ministra de Medio Ambiente de Chile

Sra. María Ignacia Benítez

en la reunión de alto nivel de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas  
como contribución al Año Internacional de la Diversidad Biológica

Nueva York, 22 de septiembre de 2010

-Cotejar con texto leído-

Statement on behalf of the Rio Group  
by the Minister of Environment of Chile

Mrs. María Ignacia Benítez

on the occasion of the High-level meeting of the United Nations  
General Assembly as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity

New York, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

-Please check against delivery-

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**MISION PERMANENTE DE CHILE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS**

1 DAG HAMMARSJOLD Plaza, 885 Second Avenue, 40th Floor, New York, NY 10017, Tel 917 322 6800

La Diversidad Biológica es fundamental para el desarrollo y la erradicación de la pobreza para el bienestar humano.

Por resolución 63/219 esta Asamblea General convocó a una reunión de alto nivel como contribución al Año Internacional de la Diversidad Biológica, ad portas de la X Conferencia de las Partes del Convenio sobre Diversidad Biológica a realizarse en Nagoya, Japón, en octubre próximo, donde se espera que la Partes le den ímpetu a la implementación del Convenio.

El Año Internacional de la Diversidad Biológica nos brinda una ocasión única de recalcar los desafíos que enfrentamos, pero también las oportunidades que la gestión de los recursos de la biodiversidad nos ofrece, en especial en lo que dice relación con la erradicación de la pobreza y el mejoramiento de las vidas de millones de seres humanos.

En la Cumbre Mundial sobre Desarrollo Sostenible de 2002, los Estados nos comprometimos a lograr para el año 2010 una reducción significativa del ritmo actual de pérdida de diversidad biológica a nivel mundial, regional y nacional y a poner en práctica con mayor eficacia y coherencia los tres objetivos del Convenio sobre Diversidad Biológica.

Lamentablemente, distintos estudios e indicadores han reconocido que no se alcanzarán los objetivos de reducción que nos propusimos para 2010. De hecho, la biodiversidad sigue perdiéndose a un ritmo más veloz que nunca. Esto conlleva serias implicancias para el bienestar tanto de las generaciones presente y futuras. Es indispensable revertir esta tendencia asegurando una implementación reforzada de los tres objetivos del Convenio, es decir la conservación, el uso sostenible y la distribución justa y equitativa de los beneficios derivados de uso de la biodiversidad.

De aquí en adelante, nuestro éxito será medido por (nuestra capacidad de) alcanzar un resultado balanceado y efectivo en Nagoya a través de la conclusión de las negociaciones sobre un Protocolo sobre acceso y distribución de los beneficios, en el Plan Estratégico pos-2010 del Convenio y respecto a la Estrategia de Movilización de Recursos.

Excelencias, el fracaso en Nagoya no es una opción.

Los países del Grupo de Río reiteramos en esta ocasión nuestro apoyo político a la adopción de un Protocolo sobre acceso y participación en los beneficios derivados de la utilización de los recursos genéticos, cumpliendo así con las metas acordadas en 2006 en Curitiba, Brasil, en la 8ª Conferencia de las Partes del Convenio sobre Diversidad Biológica (COP 8). Nuestros países le otorgan la máxima prioridad política a la conclusión exitosa de estas negociaciones, con lo cual se cumpliría una antigua

aspiración de operacionalizar el tercer objetivo del Convenio. Un marco para la regulación del acceso y la distribución justa y equitativa de los beneficios derivados de la biodiversidad constituye un componente indispensable de la arquitectura global de biodiversidad, intrínsecamente relacionado con la conservación y uso sostenible de la biodiversidad, ya que actúa como un incentivo para ambos. También representaría una contribución fundamental para lograr los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio, ya que la conservación y uso sostenible de la biodiversidad es esencial para alcanzar las diferentes metas ahí contenidas.

(Medios)

En relación a la futura acción bajo el Convenio, el Grupo de Río está convencido que un fuerte Plan Estratégico pos-2010 del CDB, junto con una Estrategia de Movilización de Recursos, son elementos claves que debieran sujetar el régimen de biodiversidad y ser adoptados en Nagoya. En este sentido, debemos dar especial atención al nivel de ambición de nuestros compromisos sobre biodiversidad a nivel internacional; deberán ser acompañados con metas equivalentes para los medios de implementación de dichos compromisos.

Como medio de implementación de los compromisos internacionales relacionados con la diversidad, la construcción de capacidades, la investigación científica, la cooperación financiera y técnica y la transferencia tecnológica a los países en desarrollo, son esenciales para lograr los objetivos del Convenio. Un punto capital para nosotros es el tema de la investigación científica y la importancia de evitar monopolios o trabas indebidas que podrían obstaculizar el acceso de los países en desarrollo a la ciencia y la tecnología.

También queremos recalcar la dependencia de las comunidades indígenas y locales respecto a la diversidad biológica y el rol único de las comunidades indígenas y locales en conservar la vida en la Tierra y renovamos nuestro compromiso de respetar, preservar y mantener el conocimiento tradicional, las innovaciones y prácticas de las comunidades indígenas y locales relevantes para la conservación y uso sostenible de la diversidad biológica.

El cambio climático plantea hoy una de las amenazas más significativas a la diversidad biológica. Recalamos la necesidad de lograr los objetivos del Convenio y de la Convención Marco de Naciones Unidas sobre Cambio Climático de una manera reforzante. Hay oportunidades para lograrlo que no podemos perder en 2010 en las reuniones de Nagoya y Cancún y las preparatorias para Río + 20. Finalmente, queremos recalcar, en este Año Internacional de la Diversidad Biológica 2010, la membrecía cuasi-universal del Convenio sobre Diversidad Biológica, con un llamado urgente para que dicha membrecía se haga universal lo antes posible.

Biodiversity is fundamental for development and poverty eradication for human well-being.

Through resolution 63/219, this General Assembly called a high-level meeting as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, before the X Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in Nagoya, Japan, next October, where Parties are expected to boost the implementation of the Convention.

The International Year on Biodiversity provides a unique opportunity to highlight the challenges we face, but also the opportunities that managing the resources of biodiversity offers, in particular in what relates to eradicating poverty and improving the livelihoods of millions of people.

In the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, States took the commitment to attain by the year 2010 a significant reduction of the present rhythm of biological diversity loss at the world, regional and national levels and to put into practice with higher efficiency and coherence the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Unfortunately, different studies and indicators have recognized that the reduction objectives that we proposed in 2010 will not be reached. In effect, biological diversity continues to be lost at a faster rhythm than ever. This entails serious implications for human well-being both of present and future generations.

It is indispensable to revert this tendency by ensuring an enhanced implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, namely conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of biodiversity.

Hereafter, our success will be measured by reaching a balanced and effective outcome in Nagoya through the successful conclusion of the negotiations on the Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, on the post-2010 Strategic Plan of the CDB and on the Resource Mobilizing Strategy.

Excellencies,

Failure in Nagoya is not an option.

The Group of Rio countries reiterate on this occasion our political support for the adoption of a Protocol on access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their utilization, thus fulfilling the deadlines agreed upon 2006 in Curitiba, Brazil, at the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the CBD (COP-8). Our countries ascribe the highest political priority to the successful conclusion of these talks, which would fulfill a long-time aspiration to operationalize the third objective of the

Convention. A framework for regulating access to and ensuring the fair and equitable distribution of the benefits arising from biodiversity constitute an indispensable component of the global biodiversity architecture, intrinsically related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, since it acts as an incentive for both.

It would also represent a fundamental contribution to attain the Millennium Development Goals, since the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is essential to reach different goals there contained.

(Means)

In relation to the future action under the CDB, the Rio Group is convinced that a strong post-2010 Strategic Plan of the CDB, alongside a Resource Mobilizing Strategy, are also key elements that should pin the biodiversity regime and be adopted in Nagoya. In this respect, we should pay special attention to the level of ambition of our engagements at the international level on biodiversity; they should be matched with equal targets for the means for implementing such commitments.

As means of implementation of international commitments related to biodiversity, capacity building, scientific research, financial and technical cooperation and technology transfer to developing countries, are essentials to meet the objectives of the CBD.

A capital point for us is the theme of scientific research and the importance of avoiding monopolies or undue impediments that could in pose obstacles to the access by developing countries to science and technology.

We also highlight the dependency of indigenous and local communities on biological diversity and the unique role of indigenous and local communities in conserving life on Earth and we renew our compromise to respect, preserve and maintain the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Climate change now poses one of the most significant threats to biodiversity. We emphasize the need to meet the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in a mutually supportive and reinforcing manner. There are opportunities for achieving this that cannot be missed in 2010 with the Nagoya and Cancun meetings and with the preparations for Rio+20.

Finally, we wish to highlight, in this IYB-2010, the near-universal membership of the CBD with a pressing call for that membership to become universal as soon as possible.

**Statement by Counsellor Ren Yisheng of the Permanent Mission of the People's  
Republic of China to the United Nations at the High-level Meeting as a  
Contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity**

(22 September 2010, New York)

Mr. President,

The Chinese delegation associates itself with the statement made by Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Biodiversity is an integral part of the ecological environment and the basis for human survival and development. The UN's decision to proclaim this year as the International Year of Biodiversity and to hold this high level event during the GA session demonstrates the importance that the international community attaches to biodiversity.

The theme of this high level event is achieving the three major objectives of the Convention on Biodiversity and other goals of the international community in this field. Since the signing of the Convention, worldwide public awareness of biodiversity issues has been on the rise, and the goals of biodiversity have been incorporated in the MDGs of the UN. As a result of the joint efforts of the international community, a preliminary international framework and a set of rules have been established in the biodiversity field, many endangered species have survived, and the biodiversity goals for 2010 have been partially attained. At the same time, we must also acknowledge the alarming rate of biodiversity loss worldwide. The international endeavor for biodiversity conservation still faces multiple challenges. In this context, the international community must redouble its efforts in the following areas:

1. As the development of a post-2010 biodiversity strategy will have a bearing on the achievement of the three major objectives of the Convention and will be closely linked with the achievement of the MDGs and poverty alleviation, all parties must set sight on their long-term interests while addressing current issues and, on the basis of consultations on an equal footing, lay down well-structured, sensible, and feasible post-2010 strategic goals.

2. There must be vigorous cooperation on an equal footing pursuant to the principle of mutual benefit and win-win results for all, in order to promote the sustainable use of biodiversity and ensure an equitable sharing of all the benefits derived from genetic resources.

3. The capacity building of developing States Parties must be strengthened through funding and technical assistance, so as to ensure that developing States Parties can successfully implement the post-2010 biodiversity strategy.

4. As biodiversity conservation is linked to but also different from the issue of climate change, the discussions of climate change under CBD should avoid interfering with the negotiation process of the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Mr. President,

China being one of the most biodiversity-rich countries of the world, the Chinese government gives high priority to biodiversity issues. With actions on biodiversity incorporated in our economic and social development plans, we have developed a preliminary body of laws and regulations on biodiversity conservation, and we attach great importance to the coordination between biodiversity conservation and sustainable use on the one hand and poverty alleviation on the other, as well as to their mutually complementary nature. On the occasion of the International Year of Biodiversity, we have established a 2010 International Biodiversity National Committee and developed a program of action. China highly values and is actively engaged in international exchanges and cooperation in biodiversity and is among the first countries to have acceded to CBD. Over the years, by adopting relevant legislation and administrative measures, we have given priority attention to the relationship between fast economic growth and ecological conservation, and have registered good progress in attaining the goals set for 2010. At the same time, we are fully aware of the gravity of the situation in biodiversity conservation in China. We cannot afford to ignore the challenges that population growth and fast economic development bring to China's biodiversity.

Mr. President,

The achievement of the international biodiversity goals calls for joint will and commitment, and makes effective action and cooperation all the more necessary. We will continue to work with the rest of the international community for the protection of Earth, our home planet, and for the attainment of biodiversity goals.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Statement by

H.E. Ms. Karen Ellemann,  
Minister for the Environment, Denmark



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**Statement by Denmark**  
**High-Level Meeting on Biodiversity**  
**September 22, 2010**

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New York  
Wednesday 22 September, 2010

*Check against delivery*

Your Excellencies, dear colleagues,

The global 2010 biodiversity target has not been achieved. Biodiversity - from the highest mountains to the deepest seas - is being reduced and is under increased pressure. Our biodiversity represents the very foundation for our societies. It also represents a delicate balance. If tipped – it will have severe consequences. For our nature. For our economies. For our way of living.

We are facing a global problem. What we need are global solutions. And we need them now. Time has come for us to act. At COP10 in Japan - only a month from now - we must stand up to our responsibilities as leaders. At COP10 we must deliver the deal that will set the world back on track. That will enable us to look back in 2020 and state – that we *did* turn around the development. That we *did* stop the decline in our biodiversity. So what do we need from COP10? Let me offer you my personal view on some of the important elements.

First of all we need a compass to steer by. From COP10 we need a Strategic Plan setting out the targets for our effort towards 2020. The targets must be clear, concrete, measureable and communicable. The targets should serve as solid reference for monitoring of progress. And they should allow us to undertake timely and adaptive measures to achieve them. A strategic plan with clear and concrete targets will reflect our real commitment. And it will enable the global society to address the challenge ahead.

Second – a legally binding Protocol on access and benefit sharing *must* be part of the outcome from COP10. A clear, fair and effective ABS protocol is a very key feature in our collective efforts to address the biodiversity challenge. We need an ABS protocol to motivate conservation and sustainable use of the genetic resources. And to provide for fair and equitable benefit sharing. And we need the protocol to enhance legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users. An ABS protocol will benefit all stakeholders involved.

Now - my third and final point. Biodiversity should no longer be an issue only dealt with by government officials, academics and politicians. Biodiversity concerns all of us. It affects every person around the world. And every person and entity bears a responsibility for tackling the problems. Policies and plans are to be turned into practice.

We therefore need to foster commitments and collective action. What we need is to mobilize the civil society in the struggle for biodiversity. We need the public in general to engage directly and to feel collective responsibility. We need NGO's, think tanks and citizens to raise their voices and demand their politicians to prioritize the biodiversity agenda. We need industry, farmers, fishermen – whose economic foundation relies upon our biodiversity - to take on their responsibility and act. And we need academia – universities and scientists to engage in mapping the problems and the solutions. We cannot afford a gap between high level policy negotiations and the actions on the ground. We have to think hard, exchange experiences and do more and better in this regard. This we must focus on both up to and after COP 10.

Mr. Chairman,

COP10 presents us with a unique chance to address the challenges of biodiversity. Time has come to act. And we – the politicians – bear the responsibility. Let us act together for a better future.

I am looking forward to a productive and successful meeting in Nagoya.

Thank you.



PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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## **ADDRESS BY**

**H.E. Ms. Tarja Reponen**  
**Ambassador for Sustainable Development**  
**Finland**

High-level meeting of the General Assembly as a contribution  
to the International Year of Biodiversity

Thematic panel on "The way forward in achieving the three objectives of the CBD, and the  
internationally agreed biodiversity goals and targets."

United Nations, New York

22 September 2010

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Mr President,  
Mr Secretary General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin by expressing Finland's full support to the statement made by President Barroso on behalf of the European Union in the opening plenary this morning.

The Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 report confirms what many have long feared: we are in fact losing species, ecosystems and genetic resources at an ever increasing rate. Biodiversity loss has grim consequences for humanity.

However, rays of hope pierce this gloom. For instance, conservation work has been done for centuries, and it makes a difference. The key challenge in Nagoya will be to establish a new strategic plan for scaling up and mainstreaming biodiversity concerns in all sectors of society.

First, the targets. A new CBD Strategic Plan will be approved in COP 10 and will guide the implementation of the Conventions 2011-2020. Finland strongly emphasizes that the targets of the Strategic Plan have to be ambitious but realistic.

We need to demonstrate the strong economic rationale for biodiversity. According to The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) –study, half of the welfare of the world's 1.1 billion poorest people flow directly from nature.

Also, we need to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss especially in the context of land use change, over exploitation of natural resources and pollution.

Second, I would like to emphasize the importance of enhancing synergy among biodiversity-related conventions and international environmental governance. Many of the implementation problems we experience at the national and regional level originate from a complex international environmental governance system.

The synergies process among the chemicals and waste conventions has been successful. It is a valuable starting point for strengthened international environmental governance. Many lessons learned can be applied also in the biodiversity cluster.

As you know, a ministerial working group on the reform of international environmental governance has started its work recently co-chaired by Finland's Minister of Environment Paula Lehtomäki.

Third, the CBD and the UN Climate Change Convention are highly interlinked. Finland has hosted several international meetings aiming at finding ways to simultaneously implement these two conventions. The two conventions, together with the desertification convention, are also to be dealt with in the preparatory process of the Rio+20 conference on sustainable development.

Finland is keen to see sustainable forest management applied globally as it can make a contribution towards both emission reductions as well as adaptation. These objectives can best be achieved when combined with enhancing forest dependant peoples' livelihoods, preventing loss of forest biological diversity, improving sustainable land management for carbon storage and preventing land degradation and desertification.

Biodiversity underlies the provision of ecosystem services that are crucial for human well-being. Greater recognition must be given to the role of women in biodiversity use, management and conservation. In the context of climate change, women's biodiversity knowledge becomes even more vital as it may hold keys to survival.

Finally,

Without greater understanding of the content of biodiversity and its life supporting systems, we will not reach the audience outside this room. Therefore concerted actions are needed to step up our efforts for the coming decade and decisions in Nagoya.

Thank you.

REPUBLICQUE GABONAISE

UNION TRAVAIL JUSTICE



**RÉUNION DE HAUT NIVEAU  
SUR LA CONVENTION SUR LA DIVERSITÉ  
BIOLOGIQUE**

**COMMUNICATION  
DE SON EXCELLENCE  
MONSIEUR PACÔME RUFIN ONDZOUNGA,  
MINISTRE DE L'HABITAT, DU LOGEMENT  
ET DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT  
DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE GABONAISE**

**à la table ronde sur le thème : "La voie à suivre pour  
atteindre les trois objectifs de la Convention sur la diversité  
biologique"**

**\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\*\_\***

**New York, le 22 Septembre 2010**

**Vérifier à l'audition**

**Honorables Délégués,**

**Mesdames et Messieurs,**

**Chers Amis.**

A ce stade de nos travaux, permettez-moi, au nom du Gabon, d'adresser toutes nos félicitations au Bureau de la 65<sup>ème</sup> Session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, pour avoir bien voulu abriter l'organisation de la présente Session spéciale sur la Diversité biologique.

En cette Année internationale de la biodiversité, cette réunion de haut niveau se tient au bon moment, au bon endroit et il est heureux de le constater.

En outre, sur le chemin de Nagoya où va se réunir – dans les prochaines semaines - la 10<sup>ème</sup> Conférence des Parties, l'étape de New-York, ainsi que l'ont souligné tous ceux qui se sont succédés à cette tribune, constitue à l'évidence un moment privilégié de coordination – au plan international - de notre commune volonté d'œuvrer demain, pour la réussite du rendez-vous de Nagoya au Japon.

Le Gabon s'associe donc, pour l'essentiel, à ce qui vient d'être exprimé dans ce sens.

**Honorables Délégués,**

**Mesdames et Messieurs,**

**Chers Amis.**

Le Gabon – par ma voix - est d'autant plus heureux de participer à cette Session spéciale que la semaine dernière, s'est tenue à Libreville, du 13 au 17 septembre 2010, une conférence panafricaine sur le thème : « biodiversité et lutte contre la pauvreté : quelles opportunités pour l'Afrique ? », telle que décidé a la conférence ministérielle africaine sur l'Environnement de juin dernier, a Bamako au Mali.

A cette conférence - qui a enregistré la participation effective des représentants du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement, de l'Union Africaine, de la Conférence des Ministres Africains de l'Environnement et de la Convention sur la Diversité biologique – il me plaît de vous annoncer que une position commune de l'Afrique a été adoptée et s'est exprimée à travers 4 documents importants qui vont vous être distribués, mais que je voudrais vous présenter succinctement.

**Il s'agit tout d'abord de la Déclaration de Libreville.**

Aux noms de leurs pays respectifs, les Ministres africains chargés de l'Environnement et de la planification économique se sont engagés, entre autres :

- A renforcer l'intégration et la prise en compte de la biodiversité et des services écosystémiques dans les stratégies et politiques intersectorielles et les secteurs appropriés à tous les niveaux, ainsi que leur budgétisation, en vue d'accélérer et faciliter la réalisation des objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement;
- A renforcer les capacités de nos pays pour la mise en œuvre des accords multilatéraux sur l'environnement au travers des partenariats impliquant d'avantage les communautés autochtones et locales, les scientifiques, la société civile, les élus et les décideurs politiques;
- A actualiser les stratégies et plans d'action nationaux en matière de biodiversité en tant qu'outils efficaces pour promouvoir la mise en œuvre du nouveau plan stratégique relatif à la biodiversité pour la période 2011-2020 et en tenant compte de la valorisation des ressources biologiques en vue de la lutte contre la pauvreté;
- à poursuivre et élargir les activités de recherche de manière à accumuler des connaissances sur la biodiversité, sa protection et sa promotion pour le bien-être de l'humanité, notamment à travers la création des Centres Régionaux sur la Biodiversité ;
- à étudier les modalités de mise en place d'une structure paritaire chargée de la consolidation et du suivi des financements mis à la disposition de l'Afrique dans le cadre de la conservation, de l'utilisation durable et de la valorisation de la biodiversité ;
- à créer des synergies entre les Conventions de Rio et les objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement en élaborant des stratégies, en développant des programmes de travail conjoints, des cadres, capacités et des systèmes de suivi nationaux et régionaux ainsi qu'en prévoyant un examen par les Pairs et entamant, de même les préparatifs de la Conférence des Nations Unies sur le développement durable qui se tiendra à Rio de Janeiro (Brésil) en 2012.

**Il s'agit ensuite du Régime international sur l'accès aux ressources génétiques et le partage juste et équitable des avantages issus de leur exploitation.**

Les ministres, tout en renouvelant leur attachement à la position africaine commune sur les négociations d'un régime international sur l'accès et le partage des avantages adoptée à la 13ème conférence des Ministres Africains de l'environnement tenue à Bamako en juin 2010 ont réaffirmé :

- la détermination du continent africain de voir aboutir les négociations relatives au régime international sur l'accès aux ressources génétiques et le partage des avantages issus de leur utilisation ;
- le principe selon lequel le Régime International sur APA doit, d'une part contribuer à la lutte contre la pauvreté et de ce fait, bénéficier en priorité aux pays en développement, en particulier à l'Afrique. Par conséquent, de nombreuses questions essentielles telles que la portée du protocole, les recherches à des fins industrielles et commerciales, les connaissances traditionnelles associées aux ressources génétiques et les droits des communautés autochtones, ainsi que les ressources génétiques acquises avant l'entrée en vigueur de la Convention et celles situées hors des limites des juridictions nationales doivent être négociées et faire l'objet d'un accord juridiquement contraignant.

**Honorables Délégués,  
Mesdames et Messieurs,**

**S'agissant du Plan stratégique Biodiversité post 2010, les Ministres, ont apporté leur appui au plan stratégique biodiversité post 2010.**

Ils ont réaffirmé la nécessité de définir des objectifs et des cibles SMART accompagnés d'un échéancier précis et la proposition des ressources financières adéquates pour que le Plan stratégique puisse être mis en œuvre à l'échelon local, national et régional sur la base des priorités et besoins de l'Afrique.

Ils demandent que des ressources financières soient davantage mobilisées à l'échelle mondiale, régionale et nationale pour lutter contre les espèces exotiques envahissantes, en s'efforçant en particulier d'éradiquer celles qui ont un impact sur l'agriculture, la pêche et la foresterie et en prévenant leur introduction (cible 9), en ayant également à l'esprit l'impact des changements climatiques et de l'acidification des océans sur la vulnérabilité des écosystèmes (cible 10).

**Enfin, sur l'Economie verte.**

Les Ministres se sont engagés à adopter des politiques et prendre des mesures appropriées pour mettre en œuvre l'économie verte en Afrique ; d'encourager la révision du système comptable des Nations Unies sur l'économie et l'environnement afin de prendre en compte la biodiversité et les services écosystémiques.

Les Ministres ont par ailleurs formulé l'engagement de voir la mise en place d'un Comité Panafricain de la plateforme scientifique intergouvernementale sur la biodiversité et les services des écosystèmes (IPBES), réaffirmant ainsi leur appui à cette initiative.

**Honorables Délégués,  
Mesdames et Messieurs,  
Chers Amis,**

Voici donc dans ses grandes articulations, la position commune africaine sur les préoccupations que notre continent partage avec le reste du monde. Les documents officiels y afférents seront disponibles dans les prochains jours.

Vive l'Organisation des Nations Unies,  
Vive l'Afrique,  
Et vive la coopération internationale.

**Je vous remercie.**

***Check against delivery***



**The Statement**

**by**

**HONOURABLE JATO S. SILLAH**  
**Honourable Minister of Forestry & Environment**  
**Republic of The Gambia**

**Delivered**

**at**

**The High Level Meeting of the General Assembly**  
**as a Contribution to the**  
**International Year on Biodiversity**  
**(Thematic Panel)**

**65<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**New York**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> September 2010**

**Honourable Co-Chairs**  
**Your Excellencies Heads of State**  
**Honourable Ministers**  
**Distinguished Delegates**  
**Ladies and gentlemen**

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to you for allowing me to take the floor at this important High Level Meeting as a Contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity. The Gambian delegation also expresses its appreciation to the UN Secretary General for organizing this forum under the 65th General Assembly.

Honourable Co-Chairs, The Gambia supports the Statement by G77 Chairman today and looks forward to the favourable consideration of the recommendations made. We also call for the consideration of Bamako Declaration of African Ministers Conference on Environment (AMCEN) of June, 2010.

May I start by stating that my country under the able leadership of our President, Sheik Professor Alhaji Doctor Yahya AJJ Jammeh, is fully committed to fulfilling the three main objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. As a clear manifestation of our country's commitment to the global efforts of the conservation of biological diversity, The Gambia has mainstreamed environment and natural resources management into our development policies, and developed and adopted among others two important environmental policy documents; namely the **Gambia Environmental Action Plan (GEAP)** and the **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)**. These policy documents provide the legal and institutional frameworks for sustainable management of our natural resources, as well as the means of implementation of the National Environment Management Act, the new Wildlife Act and the new Forestry Act.

Currently, The Gambia has established four national parks and sixty six (66) forest parks, covering a total of 19.27% of our land area, which does not include the 26% community and private forests, resulting to a 1% increase forest cover since 2006/7. In addition, the Cabinet under the wise guidance of our President, Sheik Professor Alhaji Doctor Yahya AJJ Jammeh did not only declare a "One Million Tree Planting Initiative yearly" since 2005, but The President also declared that all newly enrolled school children plant a tree with effect from 2009. In this way, we are attempting to promote the in-situ conservation of our terrestrial, fluvial and coastal biodiversity. The government has also created the conducive environment for the operationalization of the concept of Community Natural Resources Management in a concerted effort to promote community participation in the management of our natural resources. This initiatives has been independently assessed as being highly successful and we must accept that The Gambia is increasing the.

My government also recognizes the importance of cross-border collaboration in the management of shared biological resources. In 2001, The Gambia and the sister Republic of Senegal have signed a Protocol on the Joint Management of the Niuni and Sine Saloum National Parks with the aim of transforming the entire area into a transboundary biosphere reserve.

Honourable Co-Chairs, as we look ahead beyond the 2010 and the International Year of Biodiversity and the Decade for Deserts and Desertification, we must admit that the Biodiversity 2010 Target to significantly reduce the loss of biodiversity has not been met, mainly because the goals of the target were either too broad and over-ambitious or were being accorded less concerted attention, in particular by the developing countries in providing comparable financing. In view of this, the global efforts to conserve biodiversity beyond 2010 must therefore be re-doubled. The global challenges faced in conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services are compounded further by the impacts of climate

change. Scientific studies have shown that approximately 10 per cent of the types of species assessed have an increasingly high risk of extinction for every 1°C rise in global mean surface temperature. It has also been scientifically established that the Climate Change has resulted in alterations in species distribution and population size, timing of reproduction or migration of certain animal species, and an increased frequency of pest and disease outbreaks. Climate Change is as well, the driver in the salinization of wetland areas, the expansion of arid and semi-arid lands into grasslands areas, the transformation of tropical forests into savannah, and the shifting of desert dunes.

At this juncture, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the floods and forest fire disasters currently being experienced in all regions of the world can, without doubt be attributed to human interference with the nature. We have noted with sadness the flood disasters in Pakistan and other countries of the world. In my own country, The Gambia, over 50,000 families have badly hit by flash floods in the last two weeks.

Honourable Co-Chairs, as we look forward beyond 2010 after the Conference of Parties in Nagoya in October this year, we must:

- Strongly build on the synergies between the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification especially in Africa;
- Fully integrate the true economic value of ecosystem services in national accounting, policy assessments as well as in strategies for poverty alleviation and sustainable development;
- Better manage ecosystems for them to be more resilient to threats from climate change and other global environmental challenges, recognising that biodiversity is critical for climate change adaptation and life sustenance on earth;
- Place greater emphasis on the support for effective implementation of the UN CBD by developing countries rather than more scientific assessments.

**I thank you all for your kind attention.**



Permanent Mission  
of the Federal Republic of Germany  
to the United Nations  
New York



**Germany** 2011|2012

Candidate for the United Nations Security Council

**Speech by Dr. Norbert Roettgen,**  
Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and  
Nuclear Safety of the Federal Republic of Germany,

**at the High-Level Plenary Meeting  
of the UN General Assembly  
on Biodiversity**

New York, 22 September 2010

Mr President,

Secretary-General,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this International Year of Biodiversity, the loss of species and habitats is continuing at a dramatic pace. Second by second, minute by minute, we are destroying the natural foundations of our lives.

During the time of my speech alone, more than half a football field of German land will have been converted into transport and settlement areas. Globally, in the same period of time, the equivalent of 170 football field will have been deforested. More than 900 tonnes of fish will have been taken from the world's oceans; one more species might even have vanished from our planet forever.

And - we let it happen. We let it happen even though we value these plants and animals, as part of our world, and even though we know that biological diversity is vital to feeding the us humans. Biological Diversity is the foundation of our very own survival.

So far, around 7000 plant species have been cultivated for human nutrition worldwide. Every day, without a second thought, we use numerous "services" provided by nature and thus by biodiversity: clean air and water, fertile soils, pollinating insects, natural coastal protection, CO<sub>2</sub> storage in forests, wetlands, soils and the seas. Providing these services without nature, without biodiversity – if at all possible - would be extremely costly and involve major technological efforts.

**Conserving biological diversity is therefore not a luxury - it is necessary insurance, an investment in our future and our lives.**

The conservation of biological diversity does not yet receive the same amount of attention as the issue of climate change, but attention is a precondition for political action.

Conserving biological diversity worldwide requires committed and long-term action. And it requires cooperation among the international community. At today's high-level meeting, let us send a signal and make a global pact for biological diversity!

Let us do this,

- by recognising the value of biological diversity for human well-being and for the global economy, and by integrating it into our economic policies, instruments and accounting;
- by massively reducing our ecological footprint and restructuring production, trade and consumption;
- by making greater use of biological diversity as a basis for sustainable innovations, and ensuring equitable sharing of the benefits resulting from the use of genetic resources;
- by strengthening the global network of protected areas, particularly those at sea, to give nature space to retreat;
- by improving the knowledge of biological diversity and making it available to political decision-makers in a suitable form;
- and, not least, by significantly strengthening the financial foundations for tackling these challenges at the national and international level.

In the framework of our Presidency of the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity we have striven, together with all our partners, to actively promote this process. Most recently in Geneva in an unprecedented meeting with all previous and future Presidencies of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, we adopted a Call for Action addressed at the participants here today.

In the spirit of this Call for Action, let us lay the foundations here in New York and at the upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to halt the loss of biological diversity in the coming decade. Let us endeavour to restore what has been lost.

Thank you.



***Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations***

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(Check against delivery)

**HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON BIODIVERSITY**  
**STATEMENT MADE BY H.E. HAROLDO RODAS**  
**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

Excellencies,

We have listened with great interest the statements of delegations. Guatemala associates with statements made by Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and Chile on behalf of the Rio Group also we fully identify with the statement made by Brazil on behalf of the Group of Like-Minded Megadiverse Countries. Very briefly I would like add 5 important points to the discussion:

1. Guatemala reiterates its deep commitment to a successful conclusion of the negotiations on the Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing as well as to conclude the Strategic Plan Post 2010 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and resource mobilization strategy. We believe that today's meeting can catalyze the political will needed for a successful outcome in Nagoya.
2. Agreeing to an effective ABS Protocol represents a great opportunity for the Convention on Biological Diversity and for Member states of the United Nations. It ensures access to genetic resources and recognizes the value of traditional knowledge of indigenous and rural communities in the world. Guatemala is already designing its legal and regulatory frameworks at the national level that will be in line with the future ABS Protocol and is also working on a comprehensive national policy that strengthens conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
3. Although the link between the ABS Protocol and development is not easy to grasp, the evolution of our civilization has been linked to the use of traditional knowledge of biodiversity. Today we face an enormous challenge: to ensure that our ecosystems adapt to climate change without threatening our food security. We can better address this global challenge if we have a multilateral framework that allows us to access genetic resources and share its benefits.
4. As a mega diverse country and also a country of origin of many species, the Guatemalan System of Protected Areas has been the most successful strategy for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and is an essential component to address our high vulnerability to climate change. Protected areas cover 32% of the country and its stewardship is a participatory endeavor between communities, local authorities and indigenous groups.
5. Finally, we underscore the importance that the CBD covers all geographic areas of the world, and call for its universal membership.

Thank you very much.

*(Please check against delivery)*

**Statement by:**

**H.E. Mrs. Fatemeh Bodaghi**

**Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Legal Affairs**

**Before**

**the High-Level Meeting as a Contribution to the International  
Year of Biodiversity**

**Wednesday, 22 September 2010**

**United Nations, New York**

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

**Co-chairs,  
Distinguished Ministers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At the outset I would like to express my appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for convening this important meeting. This meeting is taking place at a critical time when the international community is facing serious environmental challenges that could adversely affect timely achievement of internationally agreed development goals, especially in developing countries.

**Co-chairs,**

Let me begin my remark by highlighting the message of the Holy Koran about nature; Koran introduces nature as a blessing of God, to be exploited wisely and to be preserved and protected. There are many verses in the Holy Koran that emphasize the importance of nature and the wise use of resources. The necessity of being and the right to existence of all God's creatures is emphasized times and again in the Islamic precepts. The importance of preserving nature is admitted in all religions and schools of thoughts. The Islamic republic of Iran benefits from such valuable Islamic teachings and a system of values for conservation of nature and its components.

**Co-chairs,**

In 2002, more than hundred Heads of State and Government in Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development agreed to reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth by 2010. In spite of significant progress achieved, there are many indices of biodiversity that the world has failed to meet the 2010 targets.

Convening this meeting as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity should provide an opportunity to bring to light the challenges that international community faced during past decade. The output of this meeting should help us to find out most effective ways of reversing the loss of biodiversity resources across the globe. Biodiversity and climate change are crucial to the alleviation of poverty, due to the basic goods and ecosystem services it provides. It is integral to key development sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, which more than 1.3 billion people depend on for their livelihoods.

**Co-chairs,**

The Islamic Republic of Iran regards biological diversity as a basis for its sustainable development, and the country's biological resources are described in terms of aquatic resources, coastal areas, agricultural activities, forests and rangelands, and the wetlands. This makes the biodiversity a direct source of food, fuel and medicines. The core benefits of agriculture and

natural resources are attributed to the wide range of ecosystem goods and services derived from biodiversity at different levels, including genetic, species, and ecosystem levels.

In order to meet the goals and targets of 2010 and reduce the rate of biodiversity loss at the national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation, the Islamic Republic of Iran has undertaken a number of projects to halt the degradation of major ecosystems and initiate conservation efforts such as integrated fertilizer management projects, irrigation and inland water management, coastal management projects, coastal and wetland biodiversity management projects, and implementation of afforestation projects.

In relation to tourism and cultural activities, several projects are underway for developing and promoting eco-tourism through protecting and supporting culture and traditions of the local communities. We have provided local communities with programs to promote conservation and sustainable use of biological and genetic resources.

Areas protected by the Government cover 12 million hectares (about 8% of the land area). Our goal is to increase this proportion to 10% of the national land area. We have also established a national target of preserving 10% of forest areas to be conserved as protected areas.

#### **Co-chairs,**

We will come together in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, to evaluate progress goals and targets in past 8 years and agree on new biodiversity targets for the future. The new plan in Nagoya should include the establishment of a long-term programme and a roadmap beyond 2020 to maintain and restore biodiversity. It should also provide additional and sufficient financial resources and the transfer of related technology to developing countries.

In conclusion, Co-chairs, today, the biodiversity loss and climate change are among the main concerns for the international community. In the absence of strong political commitment followed by effective actions by all stakeholders, these challenges could prevent us from the timely achievement of the biodiversity targets, in particular in the least developed countries. Obviously, we could not remain indifferent to the situation of such a dire nature. Overcoming these obstacles requires collective will, vigorous cooperation, and effective implementation of the major global agreements on biodiversity.

**I thank you**

**High Level Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Mauritius  
Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme  
of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing  
States**

**Statement by**

**Dr. the Honourable Kenneth Baugh  
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs  
and Foreign Trade, Jamaica on behalf  
of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**

**24<sup>th</sup> September 2010  
New York**

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Mr. President,

I speak on behalf of the fourteen (14) Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) represented at the United Nations.

CARICOM delegations associate themselves with the statements delivered earlier by the representative of Yemen on behalf of the G77 and China and by the representative of Grenada on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

CARICOM welcomes the convening of this High Level Review meeting. We consider it opportune to review the gains achieved, the challenges faced and the gaps to be filled in the implementation of the 2005 Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. It is our hope that this meeting will build on the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action which remains the development blueprint for Small Island Developing States.

It is no coincidence that this meeting is being held in the same week in which our leaders deliberated on ways in which to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by the target date of 2015. There is a symbiotic relationship between the MDGs and the Barbados Programme of Action. Progress in achieving both the Programme of Action and the MDGs go hand in hand. If the challenges facing Small Island Developing States are not addressed within the holistic rubric of achievement of the MDGs, then most small island states will be in danger of missing the MDG targets.

While SIDS have experienced some measure of progress, many aspects of the MSI still remain unfulfilled due to significant constraints affecting its implementation which, in several cases, have only worsened with time.

This is reflective of the capacity constraints - human, financial and technical - which continue to beset Small Island Developing States. These constraints are made worse by the debilitating effects of successive waves of global crises which have buffeted our countries and which have exposed our limited coping abilities.

Indeed the inherent vulnerabilities of small island states make them the least resilient and most susceptible to external shocks such as the food, energy, financial and environmental crises which in recent years have retarded the growth prospects and sustainable development of our countries. The adverse effects of the economic and financial crisis on small states are particularly felt in trade, investment, aid, tourism and remittances flows which are critical to the economic livelihood of most SIDS.

We acknowledge the assistance of the development partners and regional and multilateral institutions in helping SIDS to address these challenges and constraints. It is evident, however, that much more sustained attention and targeted action is needed to ramp up support for this group of countries.

SIDS are highly motivated to help themselves. But in order to empower SIDS to bridge the existing gaps and thereby increase their social and economic resilience, action on several fronts is required:

1. **Development Financing.** Financial resources and investment in SIDS are critical. We urge development partners to fulfil the previously made commitments in respect of financing. This should be additional to the resources especially earmarked for Small Island Developing States.

There must also be broader recognition of the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States which have been categorised as middle income countries. This represents a specific challenge for states such as Jamaica as this categorisation hinders access to sources of concessionary financing and restricts or even removes access to development financing. The use of GDP or GNI is not an adequate measure of the state of development of the majority of SIDS. Other factors must be included in the equation, such as high energy and transportation costs, and the vulnerability to natural disasters.

2. **Debt Sustainability.** With the classification as middle- and high-income countries, these small states do not have access to international debt relief initiatives. In this context, CARICOM once again urges international recognition of the underlying debt problem of highly indebted Small island states so as to facilitate access to financing that can ensure debt sustainability and provide the necessary fiscal space for economic empowerment and capacity building. This includes concessionary loans and grants and debt-for-equity swaps.

3. **Expansion and access to export markets.** We fully recognize that trade is key to the economic growth of small island states. A worrying factor for many small states, is persistent trade deficits which have worsened since the financial crisis. Reversing this trend requires strategies to build-up the productive capacities in SIDS; the diversification of markets; and the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), among others. It is important in this context that our development partners scale up their aid-for-trade initiatives to support the building of supply-side capacity and infrastructure. We also call for the conclusion of the Doha Round of trade negotiations with continued focus on the development dimension.
  
4. **Sustainable Development.** Support for sustainable development of SIDS in all its dimensions must be at the core of our actions if we are to meaningfully address the multiple challenges facing SIDS as well as new and emerging concerns. Addressing poverty, investing in resources for development, including human and natural resources, is critical to attaining sustainable development.
  
5. **Climate change adaptation and mitigation.** A major challenge to the sustainable development of small island states is of course climate change. As we are all aware, small island states are the most affected yet have contributed least to the problem of climate change. Tackling the impact of climate change requires resources beyond the capabilities of most small island states to implement the necessary adaptation and mitigation measures. It requires the provision of adequate financing, support for

adaptation, capacity building and technology transfer, including the development renewable energy sources and green technology.

6. **Strengthening of Institutional support.** CARICOM joins others in calling for a review of the UN system's delivery to SIDS. This evaluation should include ways in which to mainstream SIDS issues in the programmes of the UN. We also urge the provision of adequate financing and staffing to strengthen the SIDS Unit in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) to ensure that there is appropriate attention to SIDS issues. At the same time, for Caribbean countries, it is important that the Regional Coordinating Mechanism of the ECLAC Sub regional Headquarters in Port of Spain receive the requisite funding to allow it to carry out its mandate.

Mr. President,

Many challenges continue to confront Small Island Developing States. We are, however, optimistic, that through continued partnership with the international community, Small Island Developing States will be able to significantly overcome their challenges and chart a renewed course towards full implementation of the various commitments contained in the Mauritius Strategy and the Barbados Programme of Action. It is our hope that this High-level Review will signal the start of a renewed partnership aimed at supporting the growth and sustainable development of Small Island Developing States.

Thank you.



*Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations*

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ADDRESS BY  
H.E. MR. SEIJI MAEHARA  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF JAPAN  
AT THE HIGH LEVEL MEETING AS A CONTRIBUTION  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY  
22 SEPTEMBER 2010  
NEW YORK

Mr. President,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On the occasion of this important conference today, I express my heartfelt appreciation to President Deiss for his leadership. At present, many species on Earth, which has sustained life for over four billion years, are dying out and biodiversity is being lost at an unprecedented rate.

Currently, swathes of forest equivalent to one-third of the area of Japan are vanishing from Earth every year. If the destruction of the ecosystem continues at this pace, mankind could eternally lose most of nature's bounty in the near future. If this should happen, we will not be able to pass on the blessings of nature to future generations.

As this year marks the International Year of Biodiversity, we should understand that the loss of biodiversity has been caused by none other than human activities. We now need to be aware that we must take new action and change our behavior- so as to halt this loss.

Mr. President,

In October, Japan will host COP10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya city, Aichi Prefecture, aiming to achieve a global agreement on commencing new actions.

One of the main objectives of the conference is to set global targets up to 2020 and 2050 as common guidelines for formulating national strategies. It is important for us to show a clear picture of the concerted action to be taken over the next ten years so that coming generations will be able to enjoy the blessings of nature.

During the conference, we will also negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on a new international regime in the area of access and benefit-sharing as related to genetic resources (ABS) as well as international rules with regard to living modified organisms. In particular, negotiations on ABS could be affected by the differing interests of users and providers of genetic resources. However, if the parties can agree upon a new regime, this could be an epoch-making agreement to facilitate the flow of funds for habitat conservation and thus contribute to the benefit of the entire Earth.

Japan will do its utmost as the Chair to ensure that agreements are reached on these issues at the conference, and we request the support of all the parties concerned.

Mr. President,

Japan will contribute to global efforts, acting on our own innovative initiative.

First of all, Japan proposes adopting a resolution on the United Nations Decade of Biodiversity at this General Assembly session. This resolution calls for the promotion of concerted action over the next ten years, not only within the framework of the Convention but also throughout the whole United Nations system.

Japan will also strive for the adoption of a resolution on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) at this ordinary session. Once established, the platform is expected to provide a scientific basis for the policies for biodiversity conservation and to lead to a broad understanding of the importance of such policies.

Mr. President,

Japan will also lead international efforts in promoting conservation and the sustainable use of the natural environment in the regions which have been created through such human activities as agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Japan will propose this approach, which we refer to as the 'SATOYAMA Initiative', at COP10, with a view to enabling the experiences and practices developed in different regions of the world to be shared internationally. Japan will put to good use our expertise and experience in supporting other countries.

In addition, Japan intends to propose assistance measures to support developing countries in the steady formulation and implementation of national strategies, if a global common target is agreed upon at COP10. In consultation with other countries, Japan will consider appropriate measures which will utilize its knowledge and technologies.

Mr. President,

Japan has long valued living in harmony with nature through the ingenious utilization of nature's abundant gifts in our daily lives and activities. As the Earth and humankind are in crisis caused by the loss of biodiversity, we are urged to address the root cause by making our lifestyles and behavior more harmonious with nature.

By taking advantage of our experience in living with nature, Japan is committed to be at the forefront of the global action to be initiated at COP10.

I am looking forward to meeting you again and engaging in the discussions in October at COP10, which will be held under the theme of 'Living in Harmony with Nature.'

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Ryu Matsumoto, Japan's Minister of the Environment**  
**At a panel session of the high-level meeting**  
**as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity**  
**22 September 2010, New York**

Mr. President of the General Assembly, Joseph Deiss, Mr. United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, Excellencies, distinguished representatives, and ladies and gentlemen,

All living things on the Earth exist in a natural environment endowed with biodiversity. We, as human beings, have always existed with nature. In such a remarkable year as the International Year of Biodiversity, IYB, Japan would like to fulfill our responsibilities as the president of CBD-COP10, in order to achieve "Living in harmony with nature,"

Mr. President,

Allow me to mention some major issues at COP10.

Based on the assessment that the 2010 biodiversity target has not been achieved, the participants shall agree to ambitious but realistic targets for post 2010 period, and then we shall move into a phase of action in a timely manner.

As for ABS, we must devise a flexible and practical scheme, and then, we must use the allocated benefits to conserve biodiversity in provider countries of the genetic resources.

Moreover, we will propose the *Satoyama* Initiative at COP10, as a new international effort for the conservation and sustainable use of human-influenced natural environments formed through human activities.

Mr. President,

on September 3rd, the ministers of countries who have held or will hold the presidency of the CBD COPs have met in Geneva. There, they could share the recognition that all countries should make efforts toward agreement on the major issues at COP10. Japan, as the president of COP10, has been encouraged by these positive developments.

At the end of this year, the closing event of the IYB will also be held in Japan.

We shall carry the success of COP10 to the Rio plus 20 meeting to be held in 2012, to the target year of 2015 for the Millennium Development Goals, and then to the year of 2020.

I look forward to meeting you all again in Aichi-Nagoya.

Thank you very much.



# KAZAKHSTAN

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**STATEMENT by  
Mr. Kairat Umarov  
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the  
Republic of Kazakhstan at the thematic panel:  
*“The way forward in achieving the three objectives of  
the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the internationally  
agreed biodiversity goals and targets”*  
of the High-level meeting as a contribution to the  
International Year of Biodiversity**

**22 September 2010, New York**

**Mr. Chairperson,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Recent data on biodiversity provide irrefutable evidence of the continuous loss of the Earth's ecosystems. As nature's capacity diminishes, so does its sustainability which entail new global risks.

Unfortunately, the Millennium Declaration target of reducing the biodiversity loss rate by 2010 has not been accomplished. In view of that, we consider designating 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity to be very relevant.

We expect that as a result of the 10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CP-10) to be held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010, the Parties will adopt a another new **Strategic Plan** in the field of biodiversity, which will set forth **new targets beyond 2010**.

In light of the International Year of Biodiversity, it is extremely vital to stress the importance of UNESCO's 'Man and the Biosphere' (MAB) International Programme and the Worldwide Network of Biosphere Reservation, both of which serve as scientific "labs" in preserving the diversity of biological species and sustainable development.

On its part, the Republic of Kazakhstan is an active participant of all major conventions related to biodiversity and undertakes continuous activities to preserve it. High priority is given to the establishment of specially protected areas (SPA). By 2030, the SPA area will increase up to 17.5 million hectares, which is 6.4% of Kazakhstan's territory, and will match the stipulated international standard.

The Biodiversity Conservation Fund of Kazakhstan was established for auxiliary funding of projects aimed at preserving biological diversity and the sustainable use of nature's resources.

Measures are under way to create a common electronic state monitoring system for the Caspian Sea environment, including the monitoring of its biodiversity. All subsoil users of the Caspian Sea shelf will be connected to such system with on-line data transmission possibilities.

Various projects on biodiversity conservation are being implemented with the support of the Global Environment Fund (GEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Bank, the World Wildlife Fund and others. More than 30 NGOs are engaged in biodiversity reproduction and restoration, as well as in environmental education.

It is necessary to create a new format for the future – that of economic growth without environmental damage. It should focus on **green or low-emission development** in order to reduce human-made impact on the environment and ensure a safe climate for future generations. In this context,

The Republic will host the Sixth Conference of Ministers of Environmental Protection and Development of the Asia and the Pacific Region, in Astana from 27 September to 2 October. Likewise, a similar conference will be held in Kazakhstan, in the autumn of 2011, within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe. During these meetings, we will introduce the Astana **'Green Bridge'** initiative, which aims at Eurasian integration on "Green Growth".

The "Green Growth" model is the goal of many countries, and we are confident that the Astana Conferences will become a platform for solutions to critical environmental problems.

Let me inform you about the steps taken by Kazakhstan in its transition to "green growth". On 5 July 2009, the President of Kazakhstan signed the Law on Support of the Renewable Energy Sources. For purposes of transition to low-emission economy development, the Law on Energy Efficiency has been drafted with a view to introduce energy efficient technologies, implement energy efficient measures, and reduce the carbon intensity of production. Legislative procedures are under way to guarantee domestic trade in greenhouse emission quotas.

Stable climate is one of the critical aspects of sustainable development and biodiversity conservation. Taking into account these circumstances, Kazakhstan deems it vitally important for the entire international community to take urgent action to halt further increases in temperature.

To do its part, Kazakhstan acceded to the Kyoto Protocol in 2009, and in 2010 to the Copenhagen Accord. Kazakhstan has undertaken many commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 15% by 2020, and by 25% by 2050.

Kazakhstan has also applied to be enlisted in Annex B of the Kyoto Protocol. We count on the understanding and support of the international community during the discussions of this Agenda item at the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Cancun, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010.

Let me hereby express confidence that our joint decisions will unfold a new format of the future for us all.

I wish fruitful and successful collective deliberations and outcomes to all participants of the 65<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly.

Thank you for your attention.

**PROPUESTA DE DISCURSO DEL SECRETARIO JUAN ELVIRA,  
SECRETARIO DE MEDIOAMBIENTE Y RECURSOS NATURALES  
DE MÉXICO CON MOTIVO DEL  
2010 AÑO INTERNACIONAL DE LA BIODIVERSIDAD  
(VERSIÓN EN ESPAÑOL)**

Distinguido Secretario General de la Organización de las  
Naciones Unidas, Sr. Ban Ki Moon  
Honorables Jefes de Estado,  
Ministros,  
Grupo Ejecutivo del Sistema de Naciones Unidas,  
Distinguidos Delegados,  
Damas y Caballeros:

A nombre del Gobierno de México, expreso mi beneplácito por la organización de esta reunión sobre Diversidad Biológica, fundamental para nuestro futuro y el bienestar de nuestros pueblos.

Este Año Internacional de la Diversidad Biológica es crítico para el futuro del medio ambiente en el mundo. Debemos emprender acciones para salvaguardar la variedad de vida en la tierra y el valor de la biodiversidad para nuestras sociedades.

Tenemos enfrente las dos Conferencias de las Partes más influyentes de todo el espectro de acuerdos ambientales multilaterales: Biodiversidad y cambio climático. En ambas se tomarán decisiones costosas pero ineludibles y como tal debemos afrontarlo. En las dos reuniones, México está

totalmente comprometido con la obtención de resultados tangibles.

No obstante, sabemos que el éxito de las Convenciones no es condición suficiente para alcanzar el desarrollo sostenible, necesitamos un cambio de paradigma económico en el que el crecimiento sea más verde.

Por lo que respecta a la reunión de Nagoya, la comunidad internacional comprende que el resultado debe incluir la adopción de un Plan Estratégico y un Programa de Trabajo ambicioso ligado a una efectiva estrategia de movilización de recursos que le de viabilidad. También, urge finalmente contar con la conclusión exitosa de la negociación del Protocolo sobre Acceso a Recursos Genéticos y la

Distribución Equitativa de los Beneficios. No podemos esperar más.

Sin embargo, la acción internacional no exime a los compromisos nacionales que deben asumir individualmente las naciones. México está en el camino de un **cambio de paradigma**, posicionando la conservación y el aprovechamiento racional de la biodiversidad como tema central para un desarrollo sustentable. Por ejemplo, estamos invirtiendo en la preservación y restauración de los hábitats.

Gracias a estos esfuerzos, México **ha logrado revertir la tasa de deforestación del país**. De acuerdo con cifras de la FAO, entre 2000 y 2005 teníamos una pérdida neta de

235 mil hectáreas forestales por año. Actualmente son 155 mil.

Estamos dando incentivos que promueven la conservación de la biodiversidad. El Programa ProÁrbol, ha generado ingresos para quienes se dedican a preservar los ecosistemas forestales a través del pago por servicios ambientales. Este programa cubre un total de 2.2 millones de hectáreas (comparable a la superficie territorial de Belice) en poco más de tres años y en él se han invertido más de 3.5 millones de pesos. En este mismo periodo se han reforestado otro millón de hectáreas con una inversión de más de 1.5 millones de pesos.

Del 2007 a la fecha, con una inversión de 2.1 millones de pesos incorporamos tres y medio millones de hectáreas de

diferentes ecosistemas en diferentes categorías de Áreas Naturales Protegidas. Hoy, el 13 por ciento del territorio de México es Área Natural Protegida. Estamos invirtiendo 3.18 dólares americanos anuales por hectárea protegida.

Desafortunadamente, es claro que no hemos alcanzado las metas para revertir la pérdida de la biodiversidad en el 2010. Por ello, la comunidad internacional debe actuar para enfrentar con responsabilidad este reto sin precedentes.

Debemos actuar ahora para:

Realizar acciones efectivas de adaptación y mitigación al cambio climático para ayudar a reducir el riesgo de extinción de especies y limitar el daño a las funciones y

servicios de los ecosistemas que son esenciales para el bienestar humano.

Invertir en la preservación y restauración de hábitats, especialmente aquellos que son más vulnerables climáticamente, como un "seguro" para salvaguardar los impactos del cambio climático.

Como saben, este año México hospedará la COP 16 de la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cambio Climático y existen diversas oportunidades para impulsar sinergias entre cambio climático y biodiversidad, mismas que debemos aprovechar, entre ellas el apoyo a acciones para la reducción de emisiones por deforestación y degradación de suelos (REDD+).

Adicionalmente, me permito hacer un llamado para promover el desarrollo de un programa de trabajo conjunto entre el CDB con la Convención Marco de Naciones Unidas sobre Cambio Climático (CMNUCC) y la Convención de Naciones Unidas de lucha contra la Desertificación (CNULD). Los objetivos de las tres Convenciones de Río están íntimamente ligados y será más fácil su implementación si lo hacemos de manera sinérgica.

Confirmamos a Japón, anfitrión de la COP 10 y al Secretariado Ejecutivo del Convenio sobre Diversidad Biológica, que cuentan con el apoyo de México para el éxito de la Décima Conferencia de las Partes.

Subrayamos la importancia de adoptar un Plan Estratégico y Programa de Trabajo (2011 - 2020) de la CDB que deberá contar con objetivos ambiciosos, flexibles, medibles, realistas, con límites de tiempo que aborden las causas de la pérdida de la biodiversidad, de tal manera que permitan la aplicación nacional en un marco global.

Asimismo, reitero que para que el Plan Estratégico y Programa de Trabajo sean efectivos se requiere de la adecuada movilización de recursos de todas las fuentes de financiamiento.

Para México es prioritario alcanzar la conclusión exitosa de la negociación del Protocolo sobre Acceso a Recursos Genéticos y la Distribución Equitativa de los Beneficios, que

constituye el tercer objetivo del Convenio. Por lo tanto, apoyamos su adopción, así como el desarrollo de los mecanismos necesarios para garantizar su efectiva aplicación.

Sin embargo, debemos tener muy en cuenta que las acciones que realicemos exclusivamente en el ámbito del medio ambiente, no son suficientes. Se requiere que los patrones de consumo y producción sean sustentables. Urge que las economías sean más verdes. Ese es el gran reto.

Finalmente, agradezco la oportunidad de compartir estas ideas seguro de que en esta reunión, definiremos las bases sólidas para asegurar un resultado exitoso en la COP 10 de Nagoya.

*The Permanent Mission  
of the Kingdom of Morocco  
to the United Nations*



البعثة الدائمة  
للمملكة المغربية لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

Réunion de Haut Niveau sur la Biodiversité,

Discours de

Son Excellence Monsieur Taïb FASSI FIHRI

Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération

New York, le 22 septembre 2010

Monsieur le Président,  
Excellences,  
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Je voudrais, tout d'abord, louer l'initiative de l'Assemblée Générale d'avoir proclamé 2010, Année Internationale de la Biodiversité, année qui coïncide avec la célébration du 40<sup>ème</sup> anniversaire de la Journée de la Terre que la ville de Rabat, capitale du Royaume du Maroc, a eu l'honneur d'abriter du 17 au 25 avril 2010, ainsi qu'avec le lancement de la Décennie sur la désertification. Cette réunion de haut niveau illustre bien la prise de conscience collective de l'ampleur et des enjeux de la dégradation de la biodiversité.

Permettez-moi aussi de rendre un vibrant hommage à Monsieur le Secrétaire Général qui, depuis son arrivée à la tête de notre Organisation, n'a cessé d'ériger les questions liées au développement durable au rang de ses priorités.

Monsieur le Président,  
Excellences,  
Mesdames et Messieurs,

L'appauvrissement de la biodiversité mondiale est une réalité inéluctable. Ses incidences, tant sur l'équilibre écologique de notre planète que sur la sécurité alimentaire, et les perspectives de développement sont ressenties à travers le monde.

Consciente de cette évolution, la communauté internationale s'est attelée, depuis 2002, à respecter l'engagement pris lors du 4<sup>ème</sup> Sommet de la Terre à Johannesburg, de parvenir à ralentir la perte de la richesse de la diversité biologique à l'horizon 2010.

Cependant, le bilan tel que dressé par les organisations internationales pertinentes ainsi que par les instituts nationaux et régionaux, fait état d'un rythme de dégradation sans précédent de notre écosystème et ce, en dépit de la bonne volonté et des efforts consentis par les uns et les autres.

Avec le rythme actuel de dégradation des ressources naturelles, nous courrons le risque de pousser les écosystèmes vers des points de rupture et de mettre en péril le bien-être, le développement et la sécurité de l'être humain. A titre d'exemple, les pêches, courent de grands périls. C'est le cas également des forêts vierges, qui se rétrécissent annuellement par milliers d'hectares, des populations animales et végétales, combien nombreuses, qui sont en déclin et de la pénurie d'eau, qui est déjà ressentie dans plusieurs capitales du Monde, alors que les facteurs entraînant la perte de la biodiversité continuent malheureusement de s'accroître.

Ces menaces ont eu de graves répercussions sur les écosystèmes et le bien être de l'humanité et, par conséquent, sur l'accroissement de la pauvreté, compromettant ainsi la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement.

C'est la raison pour laquelle, nous devons, ensemble, conformément à nos engagements et à l'obligation, qui nous incombe, de

préserver la nature pour les générations actuelles et futures, promouvoir une coopération internationale efficace, agissante et solidaire pour protéger l'environnement et préserver la diversité biologique.

A cet égard, une mise en œuvre effective et concertée des dispositions des trois Conventions de Rio, respectivement afférentes aux changements climatiques, à la lutte contre la désertification et à la biodiversité s'impose.

La communauté des donateurs est également interpellée pour concrétiser ses engagements en matière de financement et augmenter les ressources financières pour aider les pays en développement à mettre en œuvre les objectifs de la Convention sur la Diversité Biologique (CDB).

Nous devons également faciliter l'accès aux Fonds et Mécanismes de financement existants et en même temps chercher des solutions alternatives innovantes, telles que les mécanismes de financement innovants, pour se donner les moyens de mettre sur pied et appliquer des stratégies intégrées centrées sur le développement durable et son pilier principal, la protection de l'environnement et la préservation de la diversité biologique, tout particulièrement.

Un intérêt tout particulier doit être accordé au Continent africain, qui regorge d'immenses réserves biologiques, et qui malheureusement ne dispose pas de moyens pour lutter efficacement contre la déperdition de ses ressources biologiques et son patrimoine

naturel et pour faire face efficacement à la désertification et aux effets des changements climatiques.

De même, il est indispensable d'instaurer un régime international sur le partage équitable des bénéfices découlant de l'utilisation des ressources biologiques et génétiques, qui garantisse les intérêts des pays en développement, disposant de ressources biologiques et génétiques importantes.

Par ailleurs, nous appuyons le projet de constitution d'une Plateforme intergouvernementale scientifique et politique sur la biodiversité et les services écosystémiques (IPBES), ainsi que la constitution rapide d'un Réseau d'observation de la biodiversité.

Monsieur le Président ;

Excellences ;

Mesdames et Messieurs ;

De par sa position géographique particulière, le Maroc dispose de la deuxième richesse en matière de biodiversité dans le pourtour méditerranéen. Le souci de préserver cette richesse remonte à 1917 avec l'élaboration d'un texte législatif sur la conservation et l'exploitation des forêts. Plusieurs textes législatifs, ont été adoptés par la suite dans le domaine de la préservation de l'environnement et de la diversité biologique, conformément aux engagements internationaux du Maroc qui fut l'un des premiers pays ayant adhéré aux trois conventions de Rio, en 1992.

Dès 1992, le Gouvernement a pris plusieurs dispositions d'ordre juridique, financier et institutionnel, telles la création d'un Secrétariat d'Etat à l'environnement, d'un Conseil National de l'Environnement, d'un Comité National pour la Biodiversité et d'un Centre d'Echange d'Information sur la biodiversité.

De même, une nouvelle stratégie a été élaborée, reposant sur une approche intégrée du développement, qui définit les grandes orientations du Gouvernement pour mener de front la protection de l'environnement, les besoins du développement et l'atténuation des impacts destructeurs des changements climatiques, dont le pays est constamment confronté.

Dans ce cadre et s'agissant plus spécifiquement de la gestion des écosystèmes agricoles, le Royaume du Maroc, en tant que pays à vocation agricole, a opté pour une nouvelle stratégie agricole baptisée « Plan Maroc - Vert », qui a pour ambition de garantir les besoins économiques de la population et de respecter les impératifs de la biodiversité, en introduisant des modes nouveaux et des techniques appropriées d'irrigation, d'encadrement des agriculteurs, de rationalisation de la gestion des ressources hydriques et halieutiques.

De même, le Maroc s'est lancé dans un ambitieux programme d'énergie renouvelable, qui lui permettra de porter à 43%, en 2020, sa part d'énergies renouvelables dans la production d'électricité contre 10% actuellement. Ce programme permettra d'éviter annuellement 9 millions de tonnes de dioxyde de carbone.

Par ailleurs, et conscient de l'ampleur et de la gravité de la dégradation de sa biodiversité et déterminé à relever le défi de la protection de son environnement, le Maroc a élaboré, conformément aux Hautes Directives de Sa Majesté le Roi Mohamed VI, en 2009, le projet de la Charte Nationale de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable.

Ce grand projet sociétal a déjà fait l'objet de larges consultations menées, tant au niveau régional, dans tout le territoire national, qu'au niveau des experts, chercheurs et des ONG. Cette Charte incarne la priorité que tout un chacun doit accorder à la préservation de la biodiversité et au développement durable.

Monsieur le Président ;  
Excellences ;  
Mesdames et Messieurs;

Comme l'a relevé l'Evaluation des Ecosystèmes pour le Millénaire, « l'Homme a modifié les écosystèmes plus rapidement et plus profondément que durant toute période comparable de l'histoire de l'humanité, entraînant une perte considérable et largement irréversible de la diversité de la vie sur la Terre ». Malheureusement, ce phénomène persiste et s'accroît à mesure que les besoins de la population mondiale, en croissance continue, augmentent.

Cependant, il est possible de ralentir le rythme de la perte de la diversité biologique et d'inverser cette tendance si la communauté internationale se mobilise pour prendre les bonnes décisions et suivre les politiques adéquates et agisse dans le cadre d'une vision globale,

cohérente et intégrée, répondant aux aspirations des uns et des autres et permettant de préserver notre planète pour les générations futures.

Notre volonté commune et notre détermination à préserver la biodiversité constituent un atout pour arriver à cette fin et trouver des réponses à ce défi. Nous devons saisir l'opportunité que nous offre la 10<sup>ème</sup> Conférence des Parties sur la Diversité Biologique (Nagoya, Japon, 18-29 Octobre 2010), pour prendre des décisions fondamentales, notamment la définition d'un cadre stratégique et du programme de la prochaine phase de mise en œuvre de la Convention, tout en dressant le bilan des progrès accomplis par les Parties.

**Je vous remercie.**



## PERMANENT MISSION OF NEPAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement by Hon. Dr. Jagadish Chandra Pokharel, Vice Chairman of the National Planning Commission of Nepal and the member of the Nepalese delegation, at the Panel Discussion on "The way forward in achieving the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the internationally agreed biodiversity goals and targets" (New York, 22 September 2010)**

Mr. President,

I thank the distinguished panelists for their insightful presentations. My delegation attaches high importance to the theme of today's deliberation.

Biodiversity is one of the priority areas of our development process, as it forms a strong basis for the fulfillment of daily needs of common people, especially the poor and vulnerable ones. The gradual loss of biodiversity is a matter of grave concern to us as it has posed a serious threat to the overall development process of the least developed and structurally vulnerable countries like Nepal. The loss of biodiversity has a direct impact on the daily livelihood of the people who depend on it.

Mr. President,

Nepal is one of the biodiversity rich countries in the world. Many indigenous and local communities in Nepal embody traditional life styles on biological resources. We have a kind of biological diversity in the country, specifically caused by the diverse topographical, altitudinal, climatic and cultural variations and their interactions.

Nepal houses 118 different ecosystems, 75 vegetation types and 35 forest types. Of the total area, nearly 40% is under forest, about 21% under agriculture. Current expansion of Protected Areas represent about 24.6% of the country and eight major wetlands are designated under Ramsar Sites and many more are in the process. Less than 0.1% of the earth's land mass in Nepal supports for about 8 % of all birds, 4% of all mammals, 6% of all bryophytes, 3% of all pteridophytes and 1.53% of all reptiles. Moreover, Nepal houses for above 7000 species of flowering plants, over 200 species of commercially important medicinal and aromatic plants, 5000 species of insects, 185 species of fishes, over 400 species of agro-horticultural crops.

Nepal has been continuously engaged in nature conservation both for livelihood and environmental protection. Community-based approach of management of forest and protected areas has been recognized, worldwide, as one of the successful tools to effective and sustainable nature management. We believe that proper management and judicious use of biological resources can bring substantial improvement in the livelihood of Nepalese people on one hand and greatly contribute to global biodiversity conservation on the other. However, due to the lack of adequate financial resources, appropriate technology, human resources, infrastructure, as well as the adverse impact of climate change, we have been facing great hindrances in our attempts to preserve biodiversity in Nepal. Against this backdrop, my delegation wants to emphasize the following:

- We call for the urgent implementation of the three objectives of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, in a mutually supportive manner. (Conservation, sustainable use and sharing of benefits to the people of the area)
- We feel a greater need for making special investment in the conservation of biological diversity with financial support from the international community to the countries with less capacity like ours.
- The future of mother earth lies in the hand of present generation who should be more responsible and seriously engaged in meeting our commitments. This includes conservation of representative biomes, forests, seascapes and landscapes and their sustainable use while addressing needs of everybody including local and indigenous communities.
- As climate change has posed a serious threat to human civilisation, biodiversity has a potential to save all of us in a reliable and sustainable manner. In this regard, implementation of both climate change and biodiversity conventions needs to be made more harmonised and effective. Economic activities and nature conservation do not have to go against each other.
- As billions of people are watching COP-10 with a hope that this will bring a workable international regime on benefit sharing, we all should focus on making it successful. We have to make sure that the local people will have sufficient economic incentives to protect and promote biodiversity. Similarly, International Patent Regime must be supportive of the rights and development of the local communities.
- LDCs and countries with their vulnerabilities and poor economic base should be provided an increased, predictable and timely financial support through a more direct mechanism.
- *Protocol on Access and Equitable Sharing of Benefits* should be finalized at the earliest.

I thank you Mr. President.

# **New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations**



## **Te Māngai o Aotearoa**

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### **HIGH LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY**

#### **THEMATIC PANEL**

#### **STATEMENT**

by

**H.E. JIM MCLAY  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**Wednesday 22 September 2010**

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Co-chairs  
Distinguished Delegates

Today's task is to consider the way forward for achieving the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and new global biodiversity goals and targets.

The urgency of that task is clear.

The current global biodiversity target - achieving a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 - has not been met. The consequences of that collective failure are serious.

Biodiversity underpins the effective functioning of the ecosystems on which we depend for food, fresh water, health, protection from natural disasters and reducing the negative impacts of climate change.

On current trends, we are moving closer to a number of possible tipping points that will undermine our capacity to provide those essential services; so, New Zealand accepts the need for urgent action.

When resources are scarce, we recognise the need for well targeted, cost-effective and innovative solutions; so, in considering how to achieve the CBD's three objectives, we have identified four priorities:

- First, the importance of concluding current negotiations for a Protocol on "access and benefit-sharing" (ABS) to give effect to the CBD's third objective: *"the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources"*.  

A practical and effective ABS Protocol would be an important incentive to achieving the CBD's two other objectives, *the conservation of biodiversity* and *the sustainable use its components*, especially for developing countries.
- Second, establishing at next month's Conference of the Parties to the CBD, new global biodiversity goals and targets that inspire action and are truly "SMART" – specific, measurable, ambitious, realistic and time-bound.
- Third, to provide better scientific information for policy and decision-making by progressing the possible establishment of an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).
- And fourth, given resource constraints, we must develop more practical, innovative and cost-effective solutions to build capacity.

To illustrate the fourth point, an exciting initiative took place in New Zealand in April - the type of activity that's necessary to deliver the CBD's objectives. Building on our close relationship with our Pacific neighbours, and drawing on our expertise, New Zealand hosted a workshop to explore how invasive alien species management techniques used in our region could be extended to other regions.

Invasive alien species are key factors in biodiversity loss and have a hugely negative impact on both environment and livelihoods, particularly affecting the poor.

This "*Helping Islands Adapt*" workshop focused on developing regional action plans for the Caribbean, Coral Triangle, Indian Ocean and Pacific, in response to threats to biodiversity posed by invasive alien species as a result of climate change. It was convened with the support of the CBD Secretariat, The Nature Conservancy and Global Island Partnership, and brought together heads of agencies and senior representatives from island states and territories and NGOs.

A clear objective was to produce action rather than words; so the workshop targeted agency heads of and senior representatives who were able to commit to the resolutions that were developed. By the end of the workshop, contacts and commitments had been established for strengthening coordination and integrated action through national, regional and global networks, partnerships and plans.

I am pleased to report that commitments made at the workshop have already been put in place, and were reported to the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in Nairobi in May.

The four action priorities I outlined would make a real and practical difference to achieving the CBD's objectives; and I look forward to sharing views on these and other ways for achieving our common and urgent biodiversity goals.

**Evento de Alto Nivel sobre el Año Internacional de la  
Diversidad Biológica**

**Mesa redonda de la mañana**

**22 de Septiembre del 2010**

**Discurso leído por el Canciller del Estado Plurinacional  
de Bolivia**

**David Choquehuanca Cespedes**

Señor Presidente,

Quiero felicitarlo por presidir esta reunión tan importante para todos nosotros como es el tema de la Biodiversidad.

En las últimas décadas nuestra madre tierra y toda su diversidad biológica ha sido gravemente deteriorada por la actividad humana.

- El 30% de especies animales y vegetales están en este siglo en peligro de extinción
- cada año se desforestan 13 millones de hectáreas en el mundo
- El calentamiento global está provocando daños irreparables en la biodiversidad.
- Hemos excedido en 40% la capacidad de regeneración del Planeta

En síntesis la actividad humana ha roto el equilibrio con la naturaleza y debemos re-aprender a vivir en armonía con la naturaleza.

Para ello es necesario:

- 1) Reconocer la propiedad nacional y la soberanía de los Estados sobre la Biodiversidad.
- 2) Aceptar que vivimos en un planeta finito y que el desarrollo no puede ser infinito. Este tipo de desarrollo tiene que tener límites. Este límite es la capacidad generativa de la capacidad regenerativa del planeta y de la naturaleza. Si todos los habitantes de la Tierra consumieran como los norteamericanos o europeos el planeta colapsaría.
- 3) Este modelo de desarrollo capitalista es insostenible, inviable y nos está llevando a la destrucción de la biodiversidad y de nosotros mismos.
- 4) Ya no podemos hablar solo en términos de crecimiento del Producto Interno Bruto. Tenemos que emplear otros indicadores que tomen en cuenta el deterioro de la naturaleza que causa el crecimiento económico. Indicadores que combinen desarrollo y armonía con la naturaleza. Lo que debemos buscar es la satisfacción fundamental de las necesidades del ser humano con el menor daño posible nuestra madre Tierra.
- 5) Es esencial en el siglo XXI reconocer y garantizar los Derechos de la madre Tierra. No solo los seres humanos tenemos derecho a la vida, también la naturaleza tiene derecho a la vida.

- 6) La naturaleza no puede ser tratada como una mercancía mas, mercantilizar los bienes naturales solamente perjudicará a los pobres.
- 7) Si no respetamos los derechos de la Madre Tierra las victimas seremos los propios humanos. Nosotros no podemos vivir sin Madre Tierra pero el Planeta puede existir sin nosotros los seres humanos.
- 8) Para preservar la biodiversidad y la Madre Tierra requerimos establecer un Tribunal Internacional de Justicia Climática y Ambiental.
- 9) Los compromisos que asumimos en las diferentes convenciones de Biodiversidad, Desertificación Cambio Climático deben contar con un mecanismo que garantice su cumplimiento.
- 10) Necesitamos conocimientos científicos que guíen nuestras políticas, sin embargo el tema de la Plataforma científica debe ser tratado después de que concluyan las negociaciones de Nagoya, para no prejuzgarlas. **Por tanto pedimos que se respeten las decisiones del Comité General.**

**REPUBLIC OF POLAND**  
**PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



9 EAST 66th STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10065

TEL. (212) 744-2506

**Thematic panel on “The way forward in achieving  
the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity,  
and the internationally agreed biodiversity goals and targets”**

**High-level meeting as a contribution to the International Year  
of Biodiversity**

*Check against delivery*

**S T A T E M E N T**

by

**H. E. Mr. Bernard BŁASZCZYK**

Under-Secretary of State

Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Poland

Head of the Polish Delegation

New York, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

Distinguished Co-Chairs,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The discussion today sends a clear message to our citizens, that world leaders, meeting here in the United Nations, are now finally giving biodiversity the political attention it deserves.

I fully associate myself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of the European Union. Let me add to this discussion a few national remarks on 'Framing the post-2010 biodiversity strategy' and on 'Ensuring the means for implementing the post-2010 biodiversity strategy'.

### **Framing the post-2010 biodiversity strategy**

Poland's **biodiversity strategy** was drawn up for the first time in 2003. After several years, as a result of progress in work in the field of biodiversity and the changing environmental, socio-economic and political conditions (primarily those related to Poland's accession to the European Union), at both global and national levels, the Strategy needed updating. In 2007, following numerous consultations with all the stakeholders, the Council of Ministers adopted a new Strategy, along with the Action Programme for 2007-2013.

The objectives and priorities of the *National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity* adopted by Poland are as follows: "The whole territory of Poland, including the Polish sea areas, shall be characterised by a good state of the natural environment, enabling the preservation of the full richness of the biodiversity of the Polish nature and the sustainability and equilibrium of natural processes – the areas with the highest natural values shall be covered by effective legal protection and connected by a system of functioning ecological corridors. At the same time, legal, organisational and economic mechanisms shall be created and function to ensure the preservation of biodiversity and its sound use. For a significant part of the country, local natural values may be one of the basic drivers of socio-economic development, contributing, when coupled with the strategic development of the areas of human life, to the improvement of the inhabitants' living standards. The public shall be characterised by much greater nature-related sensitivity and environmental awareness, which shall also be manifested by strong activities carried out by non-governmental organisations". This vision can also be applied at both regional and global levels. In order to enable this vision to be fully implemented, urgent action should be taken even today. The further loss of biodiversity leads to irreversible changes in the environment, the consequences of which are too difficult to predict and estimate. There is no doubt that the reduction of biodiversity has an adverse effect on the living conditions, particularly those of the poorest social strata, and hampers – and even prevents – the socio-economic development.

### **Lessons learned from the experiences related to the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the guidelines which Poland may give to the negotiators in Nagoya in order to ensure that the new Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biodiversity is comprehensive, ambitious and feasible**

Despite the efforts undertaken and numerous achievements, the 2010 Biodiversity Target was not fully implemented. This was caused by many reasons of political, social and economic nature. The existing financial, human and institutional resources were not sufficient to meet the needs. There was not full awareness of the significance of this target and the problem facing mankind. The available means and resources were not fully mobilised. Often, biodiversity was not a priority, either for the governing authorities, or the public.

In adopting the new Strategic Plan in Nagoya, we must be conscious of our needs, but also of our capabilities. The plan should be ambitious, but, at the same time, it should be realistic. The targets set out in the Strategic Plan must be achieved on the condition of the due engagement of both the relevant authorities and the public as a whole. An important issue is to ensure that the economic sectors which use the resources of the natural environment or transform this environment become involved in the actions. In order to implement the Strategic Plan it is necessary to establish mechanisms which would secure appropriate resources and guarantee their effective use. The objectives and tasks of the Strategic Plan should be formulated in a clear and simple manner, understandable for everyone, which can be unambiguously translated into different local languages without giving rise to discrepant interpretations. As a document adopted at global level, the Strategic Plan should provide for an overall vision and directions of actions to be implemented by individual regions and countries, depending on the local circumstances, but in accordance with the universally adopted assumptions.

### **Ensuring the means for implementing the post-2010 biodiversity strategy**

It is very difficult to **ensure the adequate resources – both human and institutional, scientific and financial – required for each country to fully implement the Convention and to create the mechanisms necessary to ensure access to all the resources needed for the achievement of the objectives of the Convention.** Wide international cooperation must be undertaken at global, regional, subregional and bilateral levels to exchange the relevant knowledge and experiences and to transfer the relevant technologies to the developing countries. The Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) for an exchange of biodiversity information under the Convention and national systems of an exchange of the information should play an important role in the exchange of scientific knowledge. Strong efforts should be undertaken to ensure that the existing financial resources are used as efficiently as possible and to seek new, innovative mechanisms, based on non-budgetary resources, by inviting different stakeholders, including private sector, to take shared responsibility for natural resources and introducing market-based mechanisms for the use of services which have so far been rendered free of charge by ecosystems.

**The ways of ensuring that the post-2010 biodiversity strategy adopted under the Convention is reflected in the national biodiversity strategies and their action plans, including a set of measurable national targets,** highly depend on the national systems and the degree to which the strategy adopted under the Convention coincides with the national biodiversity strategies.

As already said above, the first National Biodiversity Strategy was drawn up in Poland in 2003. Taking into account the progress in the methods for the conservation and reasonable use of biodiversity and the changing environmental, socio-economic and political conditions at both global and national levels, the 2003 Strategy had to be amended. To a large extent, this was connected with Poland's accession to the European Union. The amended Polish Biodiversity Strategy, along with its Action Programme for 2007-2013, was adopted by the Council of Ministers in 2007. Once the new Strategic Plan and new post-2010 biodiversity targets have been adopted under the Convention on Biodiversity, work will start on the Polish National Strategy to adapt it to the post-2010 global strategy. Moreover, in the case of the EU Member States, it will also be necessary to adapt the national strategies to the EU Biodiversity Strategy, now being developed by the European Commission. It will be important to elaborate further – on the basis of global and regional targets – the objectives of the national strategies corresponding appropriately to the conditions of the natural environment and the socio-economic conditions at national level. The process of adaptation of the national strategic documents should start soon after CBD COP10 in Nagoya.

It is not easy to **ensure that the post-2010 biodiversity strategy is reflected in the national and local development priorities and that biodiversity becomes a concern of the Government, along with different economic sectors and various social groups,** as to a large extent this is related to the national system for developing and adopting the strategy and the issues related to its implementation at national and local levels. In Poland, the National Biodiversity Strategy is adopted at the level of the entire Council of Ministers. As a result of this systemic arrangement, all the Ministries are involved in its preparation and the provision of opinions on it and are also responsible for its implementation. Both the Strategy targets and the tasks under the Action Programme are the final outcome of an extensive discussion with the representatives of the communities involved in the actions for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the communities responsible for the socio-economic development of the country. The biodiversity targets were formulated in such a way that they would not only bring benefits for natural resources, but also contribute to the development of the country and the improvement of social welfare. The targets of the biodiversity strategy should be reflected in the development strategies drawn up at regional and local levels. This is facilitated by the mechanism in place for extensive consultations among the relevant authorities, public consultations, as well as the mechanism of public access to environmental information and the mechanism for strategic environmental assessments.

It is expected that the biodiversity issues in Poland will also be taken into account in the national horizontal development strategies now being prepared, including the *Strategy on Energy Security and the Environment*. The assumptions for this Strategy provide that biodiversity is an opportunity for Poland to improve its competitiveness with respect to other EU countries and, therefore, it should become a Polish environmental brand, the potential of which will be preserved for the future generations. The use of the potential offered by biodiversity, on one hand, guarantees the protection of Polish nature against anthropopressures and, on the other hand, makes it possible to use it in a reasonable and responsible manner for tourist, scientific and commercial purposes. The correct methods of agricultural production are essential elements of the preservation of biodiversity. It is important to support the development of micro-enterprises in areas with natural values. Economic activities in these areas should to a large extent be based on the provision of services related to broadly conceived ecotourism. As part of the implementation of this objective, it is also envisaged that the efforts to ensure the sound use of forest resources will be continued.

Thank you for your attention.



# THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement by H.E. Maanee LEE**  
**Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea**  
**at the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Biodiversity**

**22 September 2010**

**New York**

*<Check against Delivery>*

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Mr. Chair,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

We have gathered here to discuss and find the way to reverse the ongoing trends of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation.

I strongly believe that today's meeting should serve as a stepping stone to the rest of our deliberations on biodiversity at the current session of the General Assembly.

According to the '2005 Millennium Ecosystem Assessment', species are going extinct 100 times faster than the natural rate of extinction due to human activities. By now, we all know that "2010 Biodiversity Target", adopted at the CBD/COP6 back in 2002, has not been met at the global level.

For these reasons, there has been a growing recognition within the international community that relevant scientific information should be provided for policy-making processes in a timely manner.

However, existing mechanisms and processes have not been able to meet this need sufficiently.

Against this backdrop, a proposal has been made to establish an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, in short IPBES.

As the host country of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Intergovernmental and Multi-stakeholder Meeting on IPBES in June this year in Busan, I am very pleased to inform you that a large number of Governments agreed to establish an IPBES. And the Governments also agreed in Busan to invite the General Assembly to take appropriate action for that purpose.

Once established, this Platform is expected to support global efforts for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and ecosystem services, through identification of key scientific information for policy makers, timely assessments, policy support, and, above all, catalyzing financing to address capacity building needs.

Furthermore, the platform will also contribute significantly to developing countries' efforts in implementing a number of conventions and other international instruments related to biodiversity and ecosystems.

Mr. Chair,

I firmly believe that strengthening the science-policy interface will provide us with an opportunity to advance global green growth by securing environmental sustainability.

Based on this background, I sincerely hope that we will have fruitful deliberations on this issue at the current session, and take a clear decision and necessary actions to ensure the immediate establishment of the platform.

Thank you.



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA  
BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ABDULLA MOHAMMED ALSAIDI,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS, CHAIRMAN OF THE GROUP OF 77,  
IN THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
OF BIODIVERSITY**

New York, 22 September 2010

**Honourable Heads of State and Government,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Secretary General of the United Nations,  
Distinguished President of the 65th Session of the General Assembly,  
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. I have the honour and privilege to address the General Assembly on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. This is the first time in the history of United Nations Organization that the issue of biodiversity is addressed at the level of heads of state and government. Our meeting today provides a unique opportunity to highlight the challenges we face, but also the opportunities that managing the resources of biodiversity offers, in particular in what relates to eradicating poverty and improving livelihoods of millions of peoples. Biodiversity is a key element for development

2. As the natural wealth of the poor biodiversity is critical for developing countries. The poorest and the most vulnerable in developing countries depend on biodiversity for a range of services, from health and nutrition to serving as a safety net when faced with climate variability and natural disasters, and even their livelihoods. At the same time, developing countries are a treasure trove of biodiversity and home to the some of the rarest and most unique species that in turn hold valuable genetic resources. Today species are disappearing at up to 1,000 times the natural background rate of extinction, undermining nature's ability to provide us with the goods and services we so greatly depend on. It is the poor of the world who will suffer the most if we do not stop the loss of our biological resources, since the poor depend disproportionately on biodiversity for their day-to-day livelihoods.

**Mr. President,**

3. Continued biodiversity loss, including through unsustainable use, threatens to increase poverty and undermine development. Biodiversity can no longer be seen as an issue separate from efforts to tackle poverty and improve the health, wealth and security of present and future generations. This can only happen if we finally give biodiversity the priority it deserves.

4. Now more than ever, the Group of 77 and China calls for the urgent implementation of the three objectives of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, in a mutually supportive manner. Indeed conservation of biological diversity cannot be achieved without the sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefit arising from genetic resources. All three pillars of this convention are not only important to the development of developing countries, but provide important tools in our fight against poverty. In doing so, an effective

international framework must be in place to ensure an enhanced implementation of the three objectives of the main multilateral instrument on this matter, the Convention on Biological Diversity – namely conservation, sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biodiversity.

5. We must strengthen global partnerships and international commitments to ensure that the owners of the biodiversity resources and the traditional knowledge associated to them, which are mainly developing countries, receive the benefits arising from the use of those resources. Furthermore, developing countries will not achieve MDGs without addressing along with developed countries the international threats to biodiversity, in particular misappropriation of genetic resources and biopiracy.

6. To this end, the adoption of the Protocol on Access and Benefit sharing at the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held next month in Nagoya, Japan is of a strategic importance. The adoption of the protocol will be key to the success of the new biodiversity strategic plan for 2011-2020 to be also adopted in Nagoya. This new biodiversity vision for 2050 as well as 2020 biodiversity target requires the urgent mobilization of new and additional financial resources. The success of the Aichi Nagoya summit will be the best gift to this year's celebration of the International Year on Biodiversity and a good omen to the success of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity. However, the challenges of the continued loss of biodiversity compounded by climate change requires the full engagement of all stakeholders as well the active engagement of all governments without exception. The Group of 77 and China would like to reiterate its call to the sole remaining country who has yet to accede to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity to do so as soon as possible. Indeed a universal participation to the convention on life on earth is an idea whose time has come.

**Mr. President,**

7. The CBD will hold its 10th COP in Nagoya, next October. The G77 and China takes this opportunity to underscore the need for great mobilization and political will such that we will be able to adopt the protocol on access and benefit-sharing and to ensure that the post-2010 targets are able to be met through new, additional and sufficient financial resources and the transfer of technology to developing countries.

8. At the CBD COP 10 in Nagoya, Parties are expected to boost the implementation of the Convention. The success of our commitments from now on to the cause of biodiversity rests on ensuring a balanced and effective outcome of Nagoya that will provide the tools for addressing the challenges facing biodiversity. In this regard, agreements in two broad areas are key to lead to a successful implementation of the CBD: (i) the successful conclusion of the negotiations on the Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, and (ii) the successful conclusion of the discussions on the post-2010 Strategic Plan of the CBD and a Resource Mobilization Strategy. The level of ambition in establishing targets for reducing biodiversity loss in this plan should be matched with equal targets for the means for implementing such commitments.

Mr. President,

9. The G-77 and China is committed to finalize the draft Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development as mandated by COP-9 and calls on all Parties to demonstrate commitment and support for its adoption at the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-10). In this context, we welcome the convening of the First Forum on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity to be held in Nagoya, Japan, on 17 October 2010. We also express our appreciation to the CBD Secretariat for establishing a strategic partnership with the G-77 and for the support provided in elaborating the Multi-Year Plan of Action, which provides a unique opportunity to enhance the solidarity and global cohesion of the Group in support to the new biodiversity strategy.

10. More than ever, the establishment of a global alliance for protecting life on earth is required. This unique event offers us a unique opportunity as leaders of the world to provide leadership and led by example for the benefit of life on earth. The G-77 and China is fully committed to play its role and call on its partners as well as the UN system to support the new biodiversity strategy for the next decade so as to ensure that our children will continue to benefit for the vital services provided by our planet.

11. Finally, Mr. President, the G77 and China looks forward to a successful outcome of Nagoya's meeting and reiterates that the post-2010 Strategic Plan, along with a strategy for resource mobilization, and a new international regime on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from their use, are indivisible components of an improved global policy framework for biodiversity policy that conserves biodiversity, uses its components sustainably and ensures that the benefits from the use of the genetic resources of our planet are shared equitably.

I thank you.





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**Statement by H.E. Mr. László Borbély, Minister for Environment and Forests of Romania**

**High-level meeting of the General Assembly as a contribution to the  
International Year of Biodiversity**

**Thematic panel “The way forward in achieving the three objectives of the CBD, and the  
internationally agreed biodiversity goals and targets”**

**New York, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010**

*Check against delivery*

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Mr. President,  
Distinguished Co-chairs,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Romania fully shares the views expressed earlier by the president of the European Commission on behalf of the European Union. We would like to add some considerations from our national perspective.

This is a crucial year for the consolidation of efforts and engagements at international level as regards the implementation of the Convention's three objectives. It is up to us to make the best possible use of our meeting today in order to ensure that a clear vision and objectives are established for the post 2010 period.

A comprehensive long term vision must take into consideration the links between biodiversity, ecosystem services, climate change, desertification, economic prosperity, as well as human health and well-being.

New targets need to be established for longer periods of time aligned with an efficient monitoring of results and the use of operational indicators to measure the progress.

In the run up to the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, as a key contribution to the preservation of biodiversity, efforts must be intensified in order to successfully close negotiations on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits. We welcome the efforts made until now in negotiations which we hope will lead to an agreement on the outstanding issues in Nagoya.

Mr. Chairman,

Under the Strategic Plan for CBD, Romania has the objective of maintaining the diversity of ecosystems, habitats and biomes, within natural protected areas.

The objectives set by the National Sustainable Development Strategy for 2010-2030 aim at maintaining, consolidating, extending and constantly adapting the structural configuration and functional capacity of biodiversity. Furthermore, in order to implement the EU Strategy on biodiversity, Romania has developed an Action Plan whose purpose it is to reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss at national level.

Romania endeavors to promote traditional knowledge, practices and innovative methods as well as green technologies, in order to support the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable development until 2020.

Mr. Chairman,

Romania, believes that sharing responsibilities between local, regional, national and global levels as regards biodiversity and ecosystem services is mandatory in achieving the targets set in the field of nature protection.

Achieving the objectives and targets set in the field of biodiversity is dependent on the mobilization of the necessary resources. In this context, Romania supports a greater involvement of the private and public sectors in finding solutions and innovative mechanisms for financing the implementation of biodiversity objectives.

Moreover, we believe that we need to build on the opportunities provided by other processes, in particular UNCSD 2012 and UNFCCC.

I would like to conclude by stressing the importance of being fully aware of the value of nature and of the social and economic impact of biodiversity loss when taking decisions related to the preservation of our natural heritage.

Thank you.



**STATEMENT BY**

**HONOURABLE PETER SHANEL AGOVAKA  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS & EXTERNAL TRADE**

**BEFORE THE**

**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING  
AS A CONTRIBUTION TO  
THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY  
(THEMATIC PANEL)  
65th UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**22nd SEPTEMBER 2010, NEW YORK**

*Please Check Against Delivery*

Mr. President,

Let me begin by associating this statement with the statement issued by Yemen on behalf of G 77 and China. Biodiversity in my part of the world is celebrated every day of the year. 80 per cent of my country's people lives are connected and linked to their natural surrounding for their daily livelihood. 80 per cent of our land is customary owned, undocumented and provide us with food, shelter and our medicinal needs. The loss of biodiversity through the negative impact of climate change is threatening our survival.

Mr. President,

The varying geographical features that make up my country of about a thousand islands is a huge biodiversity laboratory with unique features, atolls with huge fresh water lakes, vast lagoon areas with unique marine life and diverse flora and fauna. We are also part of the coral triangle initiative made up of six Pacific/Asian states.

Matters for negotiations in the forthcoming CBD 10<sup>th</sup> COP in Nagoya next month, on Conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of biodiversity and the fair share of benefits arising from genetic resources is an important one. The three issues must be looked at from a sustainable development perspective. Firstly, an effective framework must be put in place to ensure sustainable use of biological diversity is focused on our collective effort to reduce poverty. Secondly, it must be people centered; otherwise knowledge based societies will continue to benefit from such genetic resources, while developing countries with no science institutions are left out as spectators.

Mr. President,

There must be an urgent economic solution to logging. An enhanced support to Eco Tourism and investment in small holder farming for Solomon Islands is a priority, to replace logging and traditional slash and burn agriculture. Solomon Islands in Copenhagen last year announced its intentions to preserve one of the largest uninhabited islands in the Pacific for conservation, the island of Tetepare. These initiatives need resources and we do hope a host of mechanisms from climate change to biodiversity are established to address these concerns. The dilemma is we have so many good intentions but if there is no real international political will and resources to implement our Convention then we are stuck between a rock and a hard place and are merely paying lip service to biodiversity global issues.

Mr. President,

Climate change impact on our marine biodiversity is already having unprecedented damage to our marine ecosystem habitats that support our fisheries especially the future of our tuna industry. Ocean acidification is already contributing to coral bleaching and wider spread damage to our coastal marine ecosystem.

Loss of biodiversity through climate change must be addressed through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. A second commitment period to reduce harmful green house gas must

be done to prevent us from reaching a tipping point where loss of biodiversity becomes unpredictable and out of control there by threatening humanity its survival.

Let me close by assuring you that Solomon Islands will play its part in ensuring our goal to maintain ecological balance and sustain global life.

Thank you

**Address by Her Excellency Buyelwa Sonjica, South African Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, on the occasion of the High Level Meeting of General Assembly as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, New York, 22 September 2010.**

***'The way forward in achieving the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the internationally agreed biodiversity goals and targets.'***

It is a great honor and privilege to address you in this panel, which forms part of the High Level Segment of the General Assembly as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity. This occasion is of special significance in the history of the United Nations and the global efforts towards halting biodiversity loss. The theme under discussion, which is 'The way forward in achieving the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the internationally agreed biodiversity goals and targets', presents a useful approach in expanding the strategic focus of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It further presents opportunities to reflect on synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements as well as key programmes with implications on biodiversity at various scales.

Distinguished guests, South Africa's vision is to conserve biodiversity across the region and to sustain the country's economic and social development in harmony with the developmental, spiritual and cultural values of its people. This vision is befitting, given the fact that South Africa is the third richest mega biodiverse country in the world and home to unique biodiversity which includes an entire plant kingdom namely the Cape Floral Kingdom.

Chairperson, as a developing country, South Africa's over-riding priorities is poverty reduction, and socio-economic development. In this context, its immediate priorities include the urgent delivery of basic human development services to the poor and the most vulnerable. This includes ensuring access to housing, water, sanitation, food security, energy, transport, education and public health services, all of which are dependent on biodiversity and the natural capital. Continued loss of biodiversity will ultimately undermine the government's programmes to deliver on its MDGs and development efforts. Chairperson, South Africa is undertaking a number of activities aimed at making an economic case for biodiversity. In this regard, we are proud to announce that South

innovative mechanisms whose intentions and purposes will be to supplement existing mechanisms.

Chairperson, South Africa welcomes the ongoing process that is underway pertaining to the intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES). South Africa notes that the envisioned platform shall seek to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long term human well being and sustainable development. This platform may further offer enhanced opportunities for strengthening synergies with all biodiversity related Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). The expeditious finalisation of this process is therefore desirable.

Chairperson, South Africa noted, with appreciation, the key outcome of the UNFCCC COP15, which recognizes the role of the importance of natural systems in mitigating climate change effects. We also note the pledges of support to initiate Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation in developing countries (REDD) programmes to mitigate climate change, through carbon sequestration and storage. South Africa also supports REDD-plus which generally goes beyond reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation to include forest conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, sustainable land management and agriculture as an important mechanism.

South Africa, given the developmental context, and limited technical capacity, therefore calls for increased collaboration between the CBD, the UNFCCC, and other multilateral agreements addressing aspects of climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, ecosystem services and development, and would include engagements with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), UN Forum on Forests, and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. It is therefore imperative that the CBD COP10 in Japan adopt a decision to establish of a cross-sector expert group to develop a joint work programme on biodiversity and climate change between the CBD, the UNFCCC and other relevant conventions and institutions. South Africa is of the view that this will allow for more efficient use of resources and actions will support the coordinated

development of resilience in natural systems and human society to deal with the inevitable effects of climate change. In addition, the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) between the secretariats of the CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC which was established in 2001 with the aim of enhancing coordination between the three Conventions, should continue to be the mechanism of choice for enabling the necessary synergies. I thank you.

**END**

**STATEMENT**

by

**Ms. Åsa-Britt Karlsson  
State Secretary, Ministry for the Environment**

**at the High Level Meeting as a  
contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity**

**United Nations  
New York**

**22 September, 2010**

**- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -**

Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Your Excellencies

When governments agreed to the Convention on Biological Diversity, they made a great leap of faith. The very concept of biodiversity was at the time hardly known outside the scientific community. The idea of sustainable use was little more than a vague principle, based on instinct rather than mature science. And it was clear from the outset that the principles of access and benefit sharing would be technically difficult to implement.

No wonder then that we meet again, to evaluate progress, make adjustments, and put in place new mechanisms to ensure the fulfilment of the CBD objectives. One such juncture was the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, where the 2010 target was endorsed, and where a seed was planted to negotiate the Nagoya Protocol on ABS.

The 2010 target was a success in terms of communication. It was a success, also in terms of mobilising political will. But it was clearly not enough in terms of achieving the necessary results on the ground.

Mr President,

When I look at the outcome of the Nairobi negotiations on the CBD Strategic Plan, it is clear to me that the world has drawn correct conclusions from the past decade. There need to be a global plan of action to save all humans, poor as well as rich, from the prospect of living in a failed ecosystem.

We need to recognise the ecological limits, and realise that principles of sound economy applies also to the natural capital.

We need to put a price tag to ecosystem services in order to motivate investments in a resilient green infrastructure that can sustain resilient societies.

We need to find and make use of all opportunities for synergies between inter-related policy areas, and base our decision on robust knowledge.

We need therefore to make use of the findings of studies such as 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, and

as a matter of urgency, we need to take the decision, here in New York, to establish the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, as a multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral panel for sustaining life on Earth.

And we need to work together to ensure that all countries have the necessary means.

There need to be commitments of governments, but also a strategy for facilitating ethically and ecologically sound engagement of the private sector.

In this way, Nagoya can bring hope for a prosperous future.

Thank you Mr President.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

*Seul le texte prononcé fait foi*

**65<sup>ème</sup> Session de l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies**

**Réunion de haut niveau à titre de contribution à  
l'Année internationale de la biodiversité**

Déclaration de

**M. Bruno Oberle**

**Secrétaire d'Etat**

**Directeur de l'Office fédéral de l'environnement**

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**65<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations**

**High-level meeting as a contribution to the  
International Year of Biodiversity**

Statement by

**Mr. Bruno Oberle**

**State Secretary**

**Director of the Federal Office for the Environment**

**New York, 22 September 2010**

Monsieur le Président, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Monsieur le Président, nous vous félicitons pour votre élection. Nous sommes convaincus que sous votre conduite, cette réunion sera une impulsion décisive pour la gestion durable et le partage des avantages des ressources de la diversité biologique.

La récente catastrophe écologique dans le Golfe du Mexique, relayée abondamment par les médias, incite à une certaine prise de conscience. Cependant, ailleurs, la dégradation de la diversité biologique et des écosystèmes, rongés par nos modes de développement, se poursuit en silence. La diversité biologique mérite définitivement plus d'attention.

Notre présence à New York exprime l'urgence du problème. Si nous prenons acte de notre échec à stopper les pertes en diversité biologique, nous devons démontrer notre volonté d'agir. Pour cela, nous avons besoin d'adopter des objectifs clairs et mesurables à Nagoya avec un plan stratégique reconnu par tous. Nous devons aussi disposer d'un cadre institutionnel fort. Enfin, des engagements de la part de tous sont nécessaires.

Nos objectifs doivent être ambitieux et mesurables. On comprend la nécessité d'augmenter significativement la surface des habitats naturels protégés avec des engagements quantitatifs.

Toutefois, il est évident que les pressions sur la diversité biologique s'exercent hors des aires protégées. Des objectifs mesurables doivent également être assignés pour la gestion durable de la diversité biologique dans les différents secteurs comme l'agriculture, les forêts et les pêches.

La diversité biologique et les écosystèmes sont la base de plusieurs ressources et activités économiques. L'estimation des coûts de la disparition de la diversité biologique et de la dégradation des écosystèmes varie de 2 à 4,5 trillions de dollars américains. Cela correspond à 3 à 7,5% du produit global brut. C'est considérable !

En résumé, un plan stratégique efficace doit mettre l'accent sur la protection de l'ensemble des écosystèmes et la gestion durable de leur diversité biologique dans les politiques sectorielles. La prise en compte de sa valeur dans l'économie est aussi cruciale.

J'ai mentionné le besoin d'institutions fortes. Dans ce but, les différentes conventions sur la biodiversité doivent mieux unir leurs efforts et renforcer leurs synergies. Ces instruments devront travailler étroitement ensemble à la mise en œuvre du nouveau plan stratégique qui sera adopté à Nagoya.

Monsieur le Président, des institutions fortes et les décideurs nécessitent une information scientifique fiable. C'est pourquoi, nous devons créer sans délai une plateforme intergouvernementale scientifique sur la diversité biologique et les services des écosystèmes (en anglais Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, IPBES).

Pour un succès à Nagoya, la Suisse espère aussi qu'un protocole – acceptable pour tous - sur l'accès aux ressources génétiques et le partage de leurs avantages sera adopté. Cet accord est une chance pour renforcer les partenariats sur les échanges de ressources génétiques. Il doit assurer à long terme l'accès aux ressources génétiques et le partage de leurs avantages. La Suisse est prête à montrer une certaine flexibilité pour conclure cet accord pour autant qu'il assure une sécurité légale sans règles excessives qui seraient un frein à la coopération.

Concernant nos engagements à Nagoya : plusieurs pays ont exprimé le manque cruel de ressources financières et humaines. Certes, de nombreux fonds existent, mais il faudra examiner si ceux-ci sont bien adaptés aux besoins et à la mise en œuvre du nouveau plan stratégique. Ceci est notamment important pour les orientations que nous donnerons au Fonds pour l'environnement mondial.

Il s'agira aussi d'explorer comment développer de nouveaux mécanismes de financement pour mobiliser des investissements publics et privés en faveur des services des écosystèmes et de la diversité biologique.

Enfin, je souhaite remercier les ministres des présidences passées et à venir des Conférences des Parties à la Convention sur la diversité biologique. Leur

participation active au Forum ministériel international informel du 3 septembre abrité par la Suisse a permis d'adopter « l'Appel de Genève ». Je remercie encore les Ministres du Japon et du Brésil pour avoir rappelé cette initiative. J'espère que vous pourrez tous soutenir cet appel pour renforcer nos engagements politiques en faveur de la diversité biologique.

Merci de votre attention.

Mr President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr President, please accept our congratulations on your election. We are confident that, under your leadership, this conference will provide a decisive impulse for the sustainable management of biological diversity and the fair sharing of benefits derived from its use.

The recent environmental disaster in the Gulf of Mexico received extensive coverage in the media and thus attracted a great deal of attention. By contrast, however, the degradation of biodiversity and ecosystems, which is mainly being brought about as the result of our methods of development, is taking place in complete silence. Biodiversity surely deserves greater attention.

Our presence in New York is proof of the urgency of this problem. If we acknowledge our failure to halt the ongoing loss of biological diversity, we also have to demonstrate our readiness to take action. For this purpose we need to adopt clearly defined and measurable objectives in Nagoya with a strategic plan that is recognized by everyone. We also need to have a strong institutional framework at our disposal, and, lastly, everyone has to be prepared to enter into commitments.

Our objectives have to be ambitious and measurable. We are aware of the necessity to significantly enlarge the area of protected natural habitats through quantitative commitments. However, it is evident that pressure on biodiversity is also being exerted outside of protected areas. Measurable objectives thus have to be defined for the sustainable management of biodiversity in various sectors, for example agriculture, forestry, fisheries.

Biological diversity and ecosystems are the basis of various resources and economic activities. The estimated costs associated with loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems vary between 2 and 4.5 trillion US dollars, which is equivalent to between 3 and 7.5 percent of gross global output.

A truly effective strategy has to focus on the protection of ecosystems in their entirety and the sustainable management of their biological diversity in sectoral policies. It is

essential to ensure that adequate importance is accorded to such a strategy in economic considerations.

I have cited the necessity for a strong institutional framework. With this aim in mind, the various conventions on biodiversity need to more effectively unite their efforts and increase their synergies. They will also have to work closely together in order to implement the new strategic plan that will be adopted in Nagoya.

Mr President, strong institutions and decision-makers call for reliable scientific information. This is why we need to create without delay an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

For success in Nagoya, Switzerland also hopes that a protocol that is acceptable to all will be adopted on access to genetic resources and the sharing of benefits derived from their use. This agreement is an opportunity to strengthen partnerships on exchanges of genetic resources, and it has to secure long-term access to these resources and the sharing of their benefits. Switzerland is prepared to show a certain degree of flexibility in concluding this agreement providing it ensures legal security without excessive regulations that would act as an obstacle to co-operation.

With respect to our commitments in Nagoya, several states have complained about the severe lack of financial and human resources. Although numerous funds already exist, it will be necessary to determine whether they are really suitable for meeting the various needs and for implementing a new strategic plan. This is particularly important for the guidance we will be giving to the Global Environment Facility.

We will also have to examine how new financing mechanisms can be developed for mobilising public and private investments in favour of ecosystem services and biodiversity.

To conclude, I would like to express my thanks to the ministers chairing the past and the next Conferences of Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity; their active participation at the international informal forum of ministers hosted by Switzerland on 3 September permitted the adoption of the "Geneva Call for Immediate Action". I also wish to thank the ministers of Japan and Brazil for recalling this initiative. I hope you

will all be able to support this call to strengthen our political commitments in support of biological diversity.

Thank you for your attention.



**STATEMENT**

by

**H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon**

**President of the Republic of Tajikistan**

at

**High-Level Meeting of the 65<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly on  
Biodiversity**

*22 September 2010, New York*

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is not accidental that we are holding a High-Level meeting on biodiversity. Biological diversity is not only a component of the MDGs, it is indispensable for human survival. For this reason, today we have to discuss the progress we gained in conservation of biodiversity, as well as measures and actions that need be taken to conserve the Earth's diversity of habitat and species for future generations.

Life of billions of people, including the poorest population, directly depends on existence of certain species that they need for sustaining their every day's life, and sometimes even for survival. Irreplaceable losses in wildlife can nullify the efforts at implementing the MDGs related to the issues of poverty, hunger and diseases, since they make the poorest part of the population of the planet even more vulnerable depriving them of the possibility to change their lives for the better.

According to the international experts, Tajikistan ranks among the ten richest centers of biological diversity, and boasts diversity of habitat and species, including numerous plants that can be used as food, medicine, fodder, ornamental plants, and wild animals.

The gene pool of the biodiversity species of the mountainous Tajikistan is rich, and can be used as a potential genetic resource for creation of highly productive and resistant varieties of cultivated plants, ornamental plants, officinal raw stuff, food plants and animal breeds. New selective brands and breeds can be created on the basis on this gene pool. Many world collection centers of genetic resources comprise specimen of the genetic brands found in our country. A considerable part of this wealth served as a basis for creating numerous useful food and medicine brands. Despite its relatively small territory, Tajikistan has the flora and fauna that accounts for around 2 per cent of the total world biological resources.

**Distinguished delegates,**

The financial, food and energy crises coupled with global climate change and demographic growth of population lead to destruction of many ecosystems. We can feel it in our country and in the entire Central Asian region. As a result of the above processes many ecosystems have been restructured, deforestation has affected half of the total forest zone, natural pasture ground in the arid areas have degraded, the Turan tiger extinguished, and over a dozen of plants and animal species joined the category of rare and endangered species.

The Government of Tajikistan does everything possible to mitigate the anthropogenic impact on the environment in order to conserve biodiversity and other ecosystems.

In this vein, in order to meet the commitments made with regard to the implementation of the internationally agreed goals and documents, in particular the UN Convention on Biodiversity, our country has done enormous work at the institutional, legislative and political levels. In cooperation with UNDP and other UN institutions, we have developed and adopted the fundamental documents on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity such as the *National Strategy and Action Plan on Conservation of Biodiversity*, the national framed document on biodiversity and the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan on “Biosecurity”, and also elaborated a number of other program documents. We have established the National Center for Biodiversity and Biosecurity, which, in cooperation with other governmental organizations, assists in coordinating the implementation the National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation. As a result of the efforts aimed, in particular, at improving the state of those nature territories that are held under special protection, at conservation of the genetic resources and biodiversity at large, it became possible not only to suspend the loss of biodiversity but in some cases to restore the number of some unique species such as axis deer, goitered gazelle, and snow leopard.

Though the High level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the MDGs implementation stated that the goals set for biodiversity conservation have not been fully implemented by 2010, we, however, believe, that the measures undertaken by the Government in my country have yielded certain results. I believe that our opinion coincides with the conclusions drawn by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity. We consider this to be our contribution to the implementation of the GA resolution that calls the parties-to-the convention to meet the commitments to considerably reduce by 2010 the rate of loss of biodiversity by giving due attention to the issue of biodiversity loss in relevant strategies and programs. This GA resolution recommends to the state members to continue providing to the developing countries new and additional financial and technical resources, including within the framework of the Global Ecological Fund. Undertaking of specific measures, including implementation of the national strategies and action plans on conservation of biodiversity requires large resources and involves big expenses. Biological resources is a universal heritage and, for this reason, any measures on conservation of biodiversity have transnational character; they are advantageous both for individual countries, regions, and the entire international community, since extinction of any variety of plants or any animal breed should be a matter of concern for the entire international community.

What is required for further support and development of this process is a more solid support on the part of the UN and other international organizations and donor countries. Such support should be directed at the implementation of measures on conservation and sustainable use of biological resources, especially in the places of their origin and concentration of genetic resources, which are wild relatives to cultured plants.

Taking into account the irreplaceable role of the Tajikistan mountains in conservation of biological resources, and also their enormous significance for the formation and conservation of

climate in the Central Asian region and other neighboring regions, we suggest that the UN, in cooperation with other international institutions, establish in Tajikistan a Regional mountainous center of biodiversity, which could become one of the most important centers for further exploration and management of biodiversity on the regional, subregional and global levels.

**Thank you for attention.**



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THAILAND  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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**Statement**

**by**

**His Excellency Mr. Suwit Khunkitti**

**Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand**

**at the High-level Meeting of the 65<sup>th</sup> Session**

**of the United Nations General Assembly**

**as a Contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity**

**New York, 22 September 2010**

Mr. President,  
Secretary-General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Thailand is aware of the biodiversity loss that has occurred at all levels, both domestic and globally, and notes that existing efforts regarding the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are insufficient to address all the types of threats to biodiversity.
- Thailand is also concerned that in the next decade, climate change will be one of the most significant threats to biodiversity, and wishes to call for concrete international cooperation on adaptation and mitigation.
- Thailand recognizes that biodiversity is the foundation of life as well as a source of food security and wealth. Thus, participation of all stakeholders from relevant sectors in the conservation and restoration of biodiversity is much needed.
- Thailand has learned from various countries' experiences in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity that priority should be given to education and public awareness on the value of biodiversity; the integration of biodiversity into all sectors; and the preservation of traditional knowledge and practices of national and local communities regarding the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- The Conference of the Parties to the CBD, at its tenth meeting, should discuss and negotiate ways and means to strengthen biodiversity conservation networks, which include institutions, business sectors, local communities and NGOs.
- From previous implementation, a permanent technical forum on biodiversity to disseminate and exchange relevant information and experiences has not been established. So Thailand is of the opinion that the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, at its tenth meeting, should consider the establishment of an Global Biodiversity Forum.
- Thailand supports the South-South Biodiversity for Development Plan of Implementation, which will enable cooperation for integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services into poverty reduction, and will do much to support the implementation of the CBD, namely conservation, sustainable use, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biodiversity and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which are most strengthened by global partnerships and International commitments.
- Thailand supports the "Decade of Biodiversity" initiative declared by the UN (2011 -2020).
- We wish to urge the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, at its tenth meeting, to come up with a decision providing developed countries to enhance assistance to developing countries, in particular transfer of technology, information exchange and scientific and technical cooperation to sustainable use and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of biodiversity.

Thank you, Mr. President.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Statement Delivered by H.E. Prof. Dr. Veysel Eroğlu  
Minister of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey**

**High Level Plenary Meeting on Biological Diversity  
United Nations, 22 September 2010**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great honor and pleasure to address this High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly devoted exclusively to biological diversity.

I find this meeting timely and extremely important. I would like to thank H.E. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations.

The ecosystems of the planet provide us with so many irreplaceable services.

However, the current loss of biodiversity, thus the related changes in the environment are now faster than ever before in the history of mankind.

Conservation of the biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources need long-term commitment and vision.

An immediate and substantial scope for greater protection should be implemented with concrete targets.

Turkey with its three bio-geographical regions is a rich country in terms of biodiversity and due to its location; it serves as a bridge between two continents.

In this context:

- Our country is located on two major bird migration routes.
- There are 11.000 plant species in Turkey, one third of which are endemic.
- We have 5 micro-gene centers in which more than 100 species display a wide variation of crops.
- In terms of animal genetic resources, many domestic animal races were originally bred in Anatolia.

National Biological Diversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) of Turkey was prepared in 2001, and it was revised in 2008.

In Turkey, in-situ protection efforts were started in the 1950s. Protected areas have been designated under various statuses; some are:

- 42 Nature Parks,
- 31 Nature Conservation Areas,
- 14 Special Environment Conservation Areas,

- 135 internationally important wetlands

The in-situ protected areas have reached about 4.6 million hectares in total, corresponding to some 6 % of the country's total surface area.

Turkey has carried out various projects on management and conservation of biodiversity.

One of these projects is the establishment of "Noah's Ark Biodiversity Database - Species, Habitats and Sites", which was put into use in 2007.

Another project that we have started is "Enhancing the Management Effectiveness of Forest Protected Areas".

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In our view, the New Strategic Plan for post-2010, which is being negotiated under the Convention of Biological Diversity, is insufficient to address benefit sharing.

Beyond 2010, the user countries of genetic resources within the context of benefit sharing should take strong measures, considering the rights of the countries of origin. Otherwise, we cannot expect any success from the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Therefore, concrete targets on benefit sharing should be included in the new strategic plan.

The organizations which are steering world markets and global economy should be informed about the close relationship between biodiversity and sectoral implementations.

As regards climate change, adaptation strategies must cover conservation of biological diversity and functioning of ecosystems.

With respect to the adverse effects of climate change, new management approaches should be taken in order to ensure the resilience of ecosystems and to conserve the biodiversity.

In this context, within our national efforts,

- We have focused on developing the renewable energy potential of Turkey. We took the essential measures to enhance energy efficiency including enacting the necessary legislation. Our aim is to make full use of the hydro, wind, solar and geothermal power potential of our Country.
- We are also committed to increase sink areas by afforestation actions and by deforestation control. In this respect, Turkey has started a rigorous afforestation campaign with a target of 2.3 million hectares of land in a five year period from 2008 to 2012.
- We improved our integrated river basin management plans for adaptation to climate change.
- Finally, very specific cooperation between United Nations and Turkey has been initiated which is called the Millennium Development Goals Anatolia Arboretum and Botanic Garden.

To conclude my words, I am calling you to hold hands together for our world, because we do not have another world.

Thank you very much.

# SAMOA



**STATEMENT BY**

**HONOURABLE TUILA'EPA SAILELE MALIELEGAOI  
PRIME MINISTER OF THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA**

**AT THE HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING OF THE SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**AS A CONTRIBUTION**

**TO THE**

**INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY**

**New York, 22 September 2010**

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Co-Chairs,

As with other Pacific Island countries, biodiversity is vitally important to Samoa. In the Pacific we are celebrating the international Year of Biodiversity under the theme "*Value Island Biodiversity – It's Our Life*".

Our coral reefs, forests, plants and animals are integral to our island way of life and are obviously critical to the livelihood of our community and future generations. We therefore note with great concern that global targets to reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss are not being achieved. That the world is also in the middle of a global extinction crisis is cause for future alarm.

Co-Chairs,

In the Pacific region our biodiversity is of global significance, but is highly at risk. Extinction rates in the region, especially for bird species, are among the highest in the world. There are many reasons why the Pacific has so many threatened species, including the vulnerability of small, isolated islands, to impacts such as invasive species, loss of habitat and excessive resource exploitation. Because small islands are particularly vulnerable to species loss and extinctions, we must develop creative solutions through innovative programs and through stronger partnerships.

Our region has called for programs that promote and support local and national ownership of sustainable development and conservation initiatives, and programs that apply the best modern and traditional science to address these alarming trends. The programmes must necessarily take into account the unique system of land ownership in the Pacific, which emphasise the customary ownership of land and marine resources.

At the regional level SPREP – the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme - hosted in Samoa, is spearheading efforts to protect biodiversity throughout the region. The SPREP supported programmes address priority environmental issues through the application of high quality management programmes.

In Samoa we are taking active steps to address the loss of biodiversity. In particular we are moving to control invasive pests, through programmes to eradicate rats and invasive bird species on a number of our islands. We have also launched an initiative to plant one million trees to better protect our water catchment areas and to protect habitat for our native species. Samoa is also at the forefront in promoting organic farming in the Pacific.

Co-Chairs,

The Pacific theme for the international Year of Biodiversity – (to) "*Value Island Biodiversity – It's Our Life*" is particularly relevant to marine and coastal areas. The Pacific Ocean covers 35% of the Earth's Surface. The Ocean is our lifeblood with the majority of Pacific communities living close to the sea. Coastal marine resources have always played a crucial role in the lives of the people for food and economic development.

The Pacific Ocean is home to many large marine animals. Over half of the world's known species of cetaceans and six of the seven known marine turtle species occur in the Pacific, including important populations of green, hawksbill and loggerhead turtles. These marine animals are flagship species for Pacific marine ecosystems and often feature prominently in promotional material for Pacific tourism.

Subsistence hunting of turtles and other marine animals as well as the traditional harvesting of fish species may have been sustainable in the past. However the combination of increasing human populations and the introduction of technology such as outboard motors and gill nets has severely impacted several species, resulting in fragmentation of populations and even local extinctions.

Co-Chairs,

Climate Change presents a major threat to the biodiversity in the Pacific region. For example, coral reefs are very susceptible to temperature increases, and the warming has resulted in significant coral deaths around the region.

The low lying atolls and islands of the Pacific face severe and immediate threats. Climate change is not just an environmental issue – it is also an issue with immense social, economic and moral dimensions.

The protection of biodiversity can play a major role in adapting to climate change. Coastal mangroves vegetation are an important biodiversity resource; these also provide very effective coastal protection as we saw first hand in the tragic Tsunami that struck parts of Samoa in September last year. An investment in biodiversity is therefore an investment in climate change adaptation.

The economic case for biodiversity needs to be better made. Pacific countries need to make the economic case of the importance of biodiversity for protecting fundamental requirements for life, such as the provision of clean water, the protection of fisheries, as well as the protection of basic attractions and assets for the tourism sector.

Distinguished delegates, the world is being called upon to work together to help reduce the rate of biodiversity loss. In the Pacific, governments and peoples of our region are committed to conserving our biodiversity and look forward to the support of development partners and the international community with our efforts.

The International Year of Biodiversity provides our region with an opportunity to highlight and promote the value of protecting biodiversity in the Pacific. The bottom line is life and survival of our communities and future generations.

Thank you



**The Permanent Mission of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya  
to the United Nation – New York**

**Sixty Fifth Session  
of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Statement by**

***His Excellency Mr. Musa Kousa***

**Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison  
and International Cooperation**

**&**

**Head of the Libyan Delegation**

**before the High Level Meeting on Biodiversity**

**New York, 22 September 2010**

(Please check against delivery)

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on chairing this High Level Meeting on the International Year for Biodiversity which represents an opportunity to exchange opinions and share ideas in order to establish a united ground and joint understanding for maintaining the biological diversity.

I would like commend on the statement made by His Excellency, The Permanent Representative of Yemen, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The international community has the right to have profound concerns about the volume of tangible and predicted dangers due to current biodiversity loss, which is no longer undoubted. The environmental scientific indications give rise to serious concerns and threaten to have serious impacts on human welfare and development horizons on the planet Earth. The danger is not restricted to Climate Change; the continuing biodiversity loss which creates the environmental balance represents a similar threat.

**Mr. Chairman,**

**Addressing** these challenges demands an effective and coordinated collective international effort based on the pledges made by the States at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, to implement the objectives of the Biodiversity Agreement more effectively; and to highly reduce the current biodiversity loss average by the year 2010 at the

international, regional and national levels; as a contribution towards the reduction of poverty, health improvement, increase of food security and maintaining the biodiversity.

**The** phenomenon of biodiversity and its impacts are undoubtedly imposing on the international community additional obligations for the support of development plans and programs for the developing and least developed countries; to encourage their policies aiming at the reduction of biodiversity loss and the adaptation with its outcome by supporting and facilitating the national and local plans and providing human, financial and informational resources sufficient for this end.

**Mr. Chairman,**

**We** would like to affirm the importance of the support and enhancement provided to the United Nations bodies concerned to study the risks affecting the world biodiversity and their impact on the human community; and also to affirm the importance of developing its capabilities to discover the best means and mechanisms to deal with risks and identify its expected volume. The United Nations Agreement on Biodiversity provides the proper for holding substantive deliberations to ensure reaching appropriate solutions for the biodiversity loss. We hope the State Parties to the Agreement will be able, during their 10th meeting to be held in Nagoya in October, to review the progress achieved in implementing their national strategies and plans of actions for the implementation of the agreement; to adopt an agenda for the period extending until 2020; and to adopt an international system to access genetic resources and share benefits.

**Due** to the importance my country attaches to preserving biodiversity, it is keen to include, in its development plans, several legislations in the field of safeguarding biodiversity and nature conservation. These legislations include hunting, protection of forests and pastures, exploitation of marine resources, securing agricultural lands and the protection of animals and trees. In fact, Libya also established a body dealing with environmental matters and biosafety.

**In** conclusion, I would like to affirm that the phenomenon of biodiversity is a long-term challenge for all countries despite the differences in the degrees of loss due to geographical reasons and financial and technical capacities. However, the experts are aware that the concerns and the issues of the poor and the upcoming risks threatening them due to biodiversity will have serious impacts on economic and social sectors which motivate the development process and which will eventually affect all other States. The best example for that is the impact of the issues and challenges of illegal immigration.

**Thank you Mr. Chairman**



# TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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## STATEMENT

by

**Dr. the Honourable Roodal Moonilal**

**Minister of Housing and the Environment**

of the

**Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**

at the

**High-level Meeting as a contribution  
to the International Year of Biodiversity  
at the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the  
United Nations General Assembly**



**United Nations Headquarters  
New York  
September 22, 2010**

Thank you  
Madam/Mr. Co-chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago stands firmly committed to the objectives and the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Biosfety Protocol.

The biodiversity of Trinidad and Tobago is the most varied of the islands in the Caribbean archipelago due to the continental origin of our landmass. The range of biological resources and the relatively high number of endemic species supported by Trinidad and Tobago, in combination with that of the other Caribbean Islands and continental states, demonstrates the region's value as an area of biological interest and underscores the importance of the sustainable management of these resources.

The biodiversity resources are of great importance to all sectors of society in Trinidad and Tobago, mainly in rural communities, which depend upon a variety of wild flora and fauna for their existence through hunting, fishing, craft, tour guiding and other nature-based activities.

In recognition of the importance of the efficient management of the country's biological resources toward the goal of sustainable development, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has been pursuing a number of initiatives aimed at sustainably managing its biological resources. These include:

- Introduction of a National reforestation and watershed protection programme. This project is designed to re-establish forest cover by rehabilitating large areas of degraded watersheds on which the nation's water supply is dependent. Projected results include, improved protection of watersheds; flood mitigation; increased aquifer recharge; preservation of biodiversity; environmental and aesthetic enhancement.
- Declaration of Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Species
- Restoration of the Nariva Swamp Ramsar Site, which serves as an example of biodiversity conservation, greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation to climate change
- Strengthening the environmental policy framework through the revision of the National Forest Policy and the development of a Protected Areas Policy
- Operationalization of the Green Fund which will provide grant funding to community groups and non-governmental organizations for environmental conservation projects.

This would encourage and facilitate these groups and organizations to take greater responsibility and ownership in the stewardship of the country's environment.

The existing legislative framework allows us to meet most of the obligations to the Convention, however we recognise the need to continuously review approaches in light of sustainable development objectives. In this regard, we are currently looking at the revision of the Forest Policy and a Protected Areas Policy that will realise changes to the legislative and institutional arrangements for forest and biodiversity management.

In recent years Global Climate Change has been negatively impacting the sustainability of our biological resources, including:

- Coral bleaching
- Drying out of wetland environments
- Harsher dry seasons resulting in increasing susceptibility to forest fires
- Increasing intensity of hurricanes and tropical storms which not only devastates the man-made/urban environment but also damages or compromises major ecosystems such as forests, coral reefs and wetland systems.

These are not problems which avail themselves to simple solutions. In fact, they comprise the most formidable environmental, social and economic problems confronting mankind today, and need to be tackled at national, regional and international levels. Trinidad and Tobago has drafted a national climate change policy that is intended to work in harmony with the forest and protected areas policy to provide a holistic approach to managing our biodiversity resources. In fulfillment of our mandate to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has made every effort, within its human resource, technical and financial capacity, toward the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target. The upcoming Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biodiversity is expected to adopt revised biodiversity targets and a Strategic Plan for addressing global biodiversity loss for the post-2010 period. There is general consensus that based on assessments on the 2010 target, which was established in 2002 as an ambitious political commitment to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, that that target will not be achieved. This begs the question: Is it possible that such a broad target was too vague, making it difficult to measure achievements? In 2004, the CBD COP developed indicators based on seven focal areas in an attempt to measure attainment of the 2010 target but these targets also lacked timescales and too wide ranging in scope so as to make measurement feasible.

As a small island developing state with limited land space, Trinidad and Tobago is challenged by competing land-use demands and requirements which sometimes conflict with biodiversity conservation. The developmental agenda requiring infrastructure expansion, increased acreage

for agriculture and the conversion of land for housing invariably results in negative impacts on biodiversity. Such impacts are compounded by the vulnerability of small island developing states to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise as well as the susceptibility to invasive species. The summation of these conflicts makes the achievement of any long-term biodiversity target difficult.

The ability of small island developing states to meaningfully conserve biological resources is hampered by capacity constraints and the inadequate mobilization of new and additional financial resources. It is therefore imperative to address such issues in order to empower small island developing states to achieve any post- 2010 target.

In preparing its Fourth National Report to the CBD, Trinidad and Tobago has encountered difficulty in quantifying the status, trends and threats to biological resources in accurate terms. Furthermore it proves to be a time consuming and technically difficult exercise to reconcile observed changes in our country's ecosystems with indices assigned by the Convention, especially when this information comes from multiple sources covering a wide range of biological resources.

Based on this experience, Trinidad and Tobago proposes that the post-2010 biodiversity target should:

- be concrete, with clearly defined operational objectives and well established realistic baselines and timescales;
- build upon that of 2010 and learn from the setting and likely non-achievement of that target;
- be of relevance to prevailing economic climates where its goals are not discordant with developmental needs; and
- establish short-term targets and indicators to assess achievement.

We believe that at the global level this would facilitate the positioning of biodiversity conservation at the top of the international political agenda, while making it more accessible to the public consciousness at the national level.

In closing, Trinidad and Tobago looks forward to a successful outcome to the upcoming Conference of Parties on Biological Diversity and the adoption of a post 2010 biodiversity target that is visionary, measurable, realistic and achievable.

I thank you.

## **UK Intervention UNGA Special Session on Biodiversity**

- Today sees the conclusion of the Summit on the Millennium Development Goals. If we are to deliver on the promises we made on hunger, nutrition, health and environmental sustainability – we need to step up our efforts. We are, of course, living in straitened financial times, and an era of fiscal consolidation. But I am delighted to be able to say that the UK will meet its commitment to provide 0.7% of GNI in overseas development assistance from 2013.
- Natural resources underpin human development. We rely on them for the essentials of life – food, water, clean air and so on.
- And yet biodiversity is still too often seen primarily as an environmental issue – when we know that it's an economic one. If we get this wrong, then our growth will be curtailed; and we will face the financial consequences of environmental degradation. We cannot continue to behave as if biodiversity is an inexhaustible free good. Later this year the report on the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, will provide us with helpful advice on how we can start to apply a economic value to biodiversity.
- At Nagoya we need to agree a new, achievable and measurable global framework for biodiversity targets; this needs to be ambitious, and it also needs to be deliverable. And we need to ensure that this framework is underpinned by the best scientific evidence. That is why we cannot delay the creation of a new, independent intergovernmental panel on biodiversity and ecosystem services. And, following this week's discussions in Montreal, we need an injection of political commitment and flexibility by all countries in order to secure a fair and transparent system for governing access to, and the fair and equitable benefit sharing, genetic resources.
- It is essential that biodiversity, climate change, food security and poverty reduction are tackled together. We will not succeed if we try to deal with them individually. This autumn the MDG Summit, Nagoya and Cancun provide us with a tremendous opportunity to address these interlinked challenges. Together, we must seize it. We simply cannot afford not to.



بعثة الجماهيرية العربية الليبية الشعبية الاشتراكية  
لدى الأمم المتحدة - نيويورك

الدورة الخامسة والستون  
للجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة

كلمة

الأخ / موسى امحمد كوسه  
أمين اللجنة الشعبية العامة للإتصال الخارجي والتعاون الدولي  
ورئيس وفد الجماهيرية العربية الليبية

أمام

الإجتماع الرفيع المستوى الخاص بالتنوع البيولوجي

نيويورك 2010/9/22

الرجاء المراجعة عند الإلقاء

السيد الرئيس،،،

أهنئكم على رئاستكم لهذا الإجتماع الرفيع المستوى حول السنة الدولية للتنوع البيولوجي الذي يمثل فرصة لتبادل الآراء والأفكار من أجل إيجاد أرضية موحدة وتفاهات مشتركة للحفاظ على التنوع البيولوجي.

في البداية أؤيد البيان الذي أدلى به مندوب اليمن بإسم مجموعة الـ77 والصين.

السيد الرئيس،،،

إن المجتمع الدولي محق في أن ينتابه القلق البالغ، من حجم المخاطر الملموسة والمتوقعة، نتيجة الفاقد الراهن في التنوع البيولوجي، الذي لم يعد محل شك، فالمؤشرات العلمية البيئية تؤكد أن الصورة تبعث على القلق، وتندر بأثار خطيرة تهدد رفاه البشرية، وآفاق التنمية على كوكب الأرض، فلم يعد الخطر منحصراً في تغير المناخ، فالنقص المستمر في التنوع البيولوجي الذي يوفر التوازن البيئي يمثل نفس التهديد.

السيد الرئيس،،،

إن التصدي لهذه المخاطر يتطلب منا جهداً دولياً جماعياً يكون فاعلاً ومنسقاً يقوم على أساس التعهدات التي أخذتها الدول على عاتقها في مؤتمر القمة العالمي للتنمية المستدامة المنعقد في عام 2002 بأن تُنفذ أهداف إتفاقية التنوع البيولوجي بمزيد من الفعالية، وأن تخفض إلى حد كبير من المعدل الراهن للفاقد البيولوجي بحلول عام 2010 على الصعيد العالمي والإقليمي والوطني، إسهاماً منها في التخفيف من

حدة الفقر، وتحسين الصحة، وزيادة الأمن الغذائي، والحفاظ على تنوع الطبيعة.

وما من شك في أن ظاهرة التنوع البيولوجي وما يتبعها من تداعيات تفترض على المجتمع الدولي التزامات إضافية تجاه دعم الخطط والبرامج التنموية للبلدان النامية والأقل نمواً، لتشجيع سياساتها الهادفة إلى خفض الفاقد من التنوع البيولوجي، والتكيف مع نتائجه، وذلك من خلال التركيز على دعم وتسهيل الخطط الوطنية والمحلية وتأمين الموارد البشرية والمالية والمعلوماتية الكافية لذلك.

السيد الرئيس،،،

نؤكد على أهمية دعم وتعزيز أجهزة الأمم المتحدة المعنية بدراسة الأخطار التي يتعرض لها تنوعنا البيولوجي العالمي وأثاره على المجتمع البشري، وتطوير قدراتها في إستكشاف أفضل السبل والآليات للتعامل مع هذه الأخطار وتحديد حجمها المتوقع، وأن إتفاقية الأمم المتحدة للتنوع البيولوجي توفر المجال المناسب لإجراء مداوولات موضوعية تكفل الوصول إلى وضع الحلول المناسبة للفاقد البيولوجي. كما نتطلع إلى أن تتوصل الدول الأطراف في الإتفاقية خلال إجتماعها العاشر الذي سيعقد في ناغويا، في أكتوبر المقبل، إلى إستعراض مدى التقدم الذي أحرزته الدول الأطراف في تنفيذ إستراتيجيتها وخطط عملها الوطنية لتنفيذ الإتفاقية، وأن تعتمد برنامج عمل للفترة الممتدة إلى عام 2020، وإعتماد النظام الدولي للحصول على الموارد الجينية وتقاسم المنافع.

وحرصاً منها على أهمية المحافظة على التنوع البيولوجي فقد ضمنت بلادي خططها التنموية العديد من التشريعات في مجال حماية التنوع البيولوجي وصون الطبيعة، شملت قوانين الصيد، وحماية

المراعي والغابات، وإستغلال الثروة البحرية، وحماية الأرض الزراعية، وحماية الحيوانات والأشجار، كما أنشأت ليبيا جهازاً خاصاً يُعني بالمسائل البيئية والسلامة الإحيائية.

**وفي الختام نؤكد على أن ظاهرة التنوع البيولوجي تمثل تحدياً** طويل الأمد لكافة البلدان بالرغم من تفاوت نسب الفاقد منها لأسباب جغرافية ولقدرات مادية وتقنية متفاوتة، إلا أن المُطلعين يدركون جيداً أن هموم ومشاكل الفقراء وما ينتظرهم من مخاطر جديدة بسبب التنوع البيولوجي سيكون له تداعيات خطيرة في القطاعات الإقتصادية والإجتماعية التي تحرك عملية التنمية، والتي ستطال لا محالة الدول وتؤثر عليها سلباً. ولعلّ ما تفرزه المشاكل والتحديات المصاحبة للهجرة غير الشرعية خير دليل على ذلك.

**شكرا السيد الرئيس.**



Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

## **Statement on behalf of the European Union**

**By**

**H.E. Mr. José Manuel Durão Barroso  
President of the European Commission**

**At the High-Level Meeting of the UN General  
Assembly as a contribution to the International Year  
of Biodiversity**

**Opening Session**

**United Nations**

**New York**

**22 September 2010**

**- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -**

President, Secretary General, Your Excellencies,

I have the honour to speak today on behalf of the European Union and its 27 Member States.

This meeting is a unique and welcome opportunity to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity. It is also perhaps one of the last opportunities to exchange views before the Nagoya meeting, where important decisions will be taken that set the course of global biodiversity policy and action for the next decade.

It is significant that our meeting today coincides with the Millennium Development Goals Summit.

Biodiversity - and the ecosystem services it provides - cuts across many of the goals, and not just MDG 7. Our ability to end poverty and hunger, and improve child and maternal health depends on the long-term availability of fresh water, food, medicine and raw materials that nature provides.

It is also clear that we will not be able to mitigate climate change or adapt to its impacts, or prevent desertification and land degradation, if we don't protect our ecosystems and biodiversity.

And yet, despite these inter-linkages, we have collectively failed to reach our 2010 biodiversity target. Instead, we continue to lose biodiversity at an unprecedented rate.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are standing at a crossroads: either we take concerted action to reverse biodiversity loss as soon as possible, or we compromise our own future and that of generations not yet born.

Nagoya is our chance to turn the situation around. It is our chance to make decisions that will strengthen implementation of the Convention's three key objectives.

Firstly, it is important that we adopt a new and effective strategic plan; one that encourages collective action and is supported by all those who use biodiversity and whose activities have an impact on it.

This plan must be sufficiently ambitious to force all Parties to the Convention to raise their game; to tackle the key drivers of biodiversity loss; to prevent ecological tipping points from being reached.

Secondly, it is important that we finally conclude negotiations on the Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, as we have pledged to do on several

occasions. The Protocol should ensure transparency, legal certainty and predictability for those seeking access to genetic resources, as well as the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits derived from them.

I am reassured by the spirit of collaboration and partnership during the negotiations in Montreal in the last days. However, hard work is still ahead of us to find answers to the unresolved questions. Agreeing on a meaningful Protocol will require full political commitment by all Parties and the willingness to compromise.

Thirdly, it is important that we agree on how best to build capacity and mobilise resources – scientific, technological, human and financial – to enable all Parties to implement their commitments under the Convention.

The European Union has committed, as part of its 2020 biodiversity target, to step up its contribution to averting global biodiversity loss. Over the period 2002 to 2008, we provided over \$1 billion for global biodiversity annually. In addition, EU Member States contributed significantly to the recent replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, for which \$1.2 billion is earmarked for biodiversity. This represents a 28% increase compared to the last replenishment.

And of course there are other ways, beyond new and additional public finance, to further enhance implementation of our commitments under the Convention. We need to explore all options, including both the reform, elimination and reorientation of subsidies harmful to biodiversity, and private funding such as payments for ecosystem services and other market-based instruments.

The European Union is prepared to work together with all Parties to improve and ensure long term, sustainable support for implementation. But it is also our view that this responsibility be shared by all Parties. Indeed, increased efforts are needed by all of us to ensure that biodiversity objectives are given sufficient priority in government plans and programmes.

The messages in the international study on The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity are clear; valuing biodiversity and ecosystem services should come naturally. After all, investing in biodiversity is not a luxury – it is a sound investment that can bring multiple benefits.

Let me conclude by saying that the European Union welcomes the decision reached in the Republic of Korea last June on the need to establish an Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. We look forward to a positive decision by the General Assembly, before the end of the year, to establish this platform in 2011.

Thank you.



**Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations**

## **Statement on behalf of the European Union**

**By**

**H.E. Mr. Janez Potočnik  
European Commissioner for the Environment**

**At the High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly  
as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity**

**Panel discussion: "The way forward in achieving the three objectives of the  
Convention on Biological Diversity, and the internationally agreed biodiversity  
goals and targets"**

**United Nations**

**New York**

**22 September 2010**

**- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -**

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our meeting today is historic. For the first time the challenge of biodiversity loss is discussed in this forum with such a number of high-level participants.

The agreement in June on the need to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services was a major step forward. The General Assembly now needs to confirm this decision to make the platform operational in 2011.

We now need to capitalise on this success and deliver on all three priorities of the agenda in Nagoya.

We need a strategic plan that responds to the scientific evidence that is available to us. A plan that ensures that dangerous biodiversity loss is avoided, so that future generations also benefit from the goods and services that nature provides.

It will also be essential that we conclude negotiations on the Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing. Now it is time to deliver.

It will not be possible to achieve our commonly agreed development goals if we do not succeed in Nagoya. Neither will we be able to mitigate and adapt to climate change if the loss of ecosystems continues at the current rate.

To achieve our biodiversity objectives a new level of collaboration between all of us will be necessary. Together we will have to increase our efforts to preserve and use sustainably our natural capital. Ecological recapitalisation is just as essential as the financial recapitalisation efforts we have undertaken over the past two years.

With the adoption of its new biodiversity target in March 2010 the European Union has committed itself to stepping up its efforts to avert global biodiversity loss and this is a pledge we stand behind.

I hope that in ten years' time the "biodiversity picture" will look very different, in Europe and throughout the world. This meeting should send to Nagoya a message of hope and determination for a future in which human societies and nature coincide in a sustainable and mutually beneficial way.

Thank you!

UNGASS-Biodiversity  
Equator Prize 2010 Community Declaration

Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor of addressing you today on behalf of twenty-five communities who are in New York to receive the UNDP Equator Prize.

Our local and indigenous community projects have been recognized as best practice in integrating biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction, and adaptation to climate change.

Our approaches are diverse, but they all show the interdependence between healthy ecosystems and our quality of life and wellbeing.

It has become clear in all of our projects that women are at the forefront of making things happen. And educating and involving our children is the key to a sustainable future.

**We are setting priorities locally, and forging locally relevant solutions. Only by including us as equal partners will development be sustainable.**

We know that negotiations are underway for the post-2010 biodiversity targets, and we urge the full and effective participation of local and indigenous communities in the development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

It is critical that environmental finance, such as REDD and protected areas, reach the local level, and be allocated through participatory and decentralized approaches.

The principles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples must guide all policy and finance regimes and their application.

Our work can be supported and replicated by scaling-up initiatives such as the GEF-Small Grants Programme and the Equator Initiative.

Local and indigenous community experience is *essential* for meeting the Millennium Development Goals. Support us to continue managing our ecosystems in a way that responds to local needs and builds on local knowledge, through full and effective participation.

When supported by the right policies and enabled to realize our rights...**we will deliver results.**

Thank you.