



**Tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,
Nagoya, Japan, 18–29 October 2010**

**The “Rio Conventions’ Ecosystems and Climate Change
Pavilion – Linking biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management”**

Opening day, Monday, 18 October 2010, 10 a.m.

**Statement by
Ms. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC**

- Dear Ahmed, dear sister conventions, dear participants to CBD’s COP 10, Ladies and gentlemen,

UNFCCC and CBD

- It is a pleasure to be, *virtually*, here with you, today, to speak in support of our sister convention, the CBD, during this very important year, the International Year of Biodiversity. This COP is a milestone conference, and I am pleased to support the joint Rio Pavilion, initiated by CBD, in cooperation with our other sister convention, the UNCCD, and the UNFCCC.
- UNFCCC staff will be here at CBD’s COP 10 for most of the two weeks, responding to a call by the CBD secretariat to provide technical advice and guidance on climate change-related issues. At the same time, we will be here for the sake of our own process, to follow deliberations during work groups such as those on biodiversity and climate change, cooperation, forests, and CEPA.

UNFCCC and the Rio Conventions

- The tenth meeting of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, convened in New York on 23 September, discussed current and emerging issues relating to cooperation and enhanced collaboration in the context of the preparation of our respective conferences of the parties and in regard to national planning processes.
- As mentioned in UNEP EMG’s UN-system wide report on biodiversity, to the elaboration of which we have contributed as a member of the EMG: Climate change and biodiversity are interconnected, not only through the effects of climate change on biodiversity, but also through changes in biodiversity and ecosystem functioning that affect climate change. Functioning ecosystems are crucial as buffers against extreme climate events and as filters for waterborne and airborne pollutants. Protecting and enhancing ecosystem resilience conservation, management and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystem services are

amongst the most cost-effective ways of tackling both the causes and consequences of climate change. Activities in this context will continue, and we are pleased to be further contributing to this endeavour and will speak in this context during a UNEP EMG side event later next week.

- Similarly, we are participating in UNEP EMG's Issue Management Group on land-related issues, which is currently preparing a corresponding UN-system wide report as a coherent response by the UN to the challenges posed by land-related issues, in particular by global drylands.

UNFCCC and the Rio Conventions' Pavilion

- We are also pleased to support the Rio Conventions' Pavilion which contributes to enhanced awareness-raising, information sharing and outreach in the framework of the three Rio Conventions. We will take part in theme days of the joint Pavilion such as on forests, land and adaptation.
- We have further committed to a side event with partners, including the CBD, UNCCD and UNESCO on implementing the Rio Conventions through activities in the fields of communications, education and public awareness in the context of the CEPA fair which is concurrently being held here in Nagoya.

Closing

- As we join hands in the endeavour to achieve sustainable development goals, and with them the Millennium Development Goals, I am glad to know that we are doing our best to mutually support not only each others' activities and objectives, but most importantly, the integration of these issues at national level for the benefit of the countries which we serve.

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