



**CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

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**STATEMENT BY**

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**CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**On Behalf of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related  
Conventions**

**TO**

**THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON  
CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PARTIES OF  
THE KYOTO PROTOCOL**

**Montreal, Canada, 7 December 2005**

*Mr Chairman,*

As the Executive Secretary of a sister Rio Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity, I am pleased to have the opportunity to address this historic joint session of the Climate Change Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

Today I have the honour of speaking on behalf of, not only the Convention on Biological Diversity, but also of the other members of the Liaison Group of the biodiversity-related conventions, namely the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the World Heritage Convention.

Let me begin by paying tribute to the life and work of the late Joke Waller-Hunter. Joke was a dear friend and colleague who worked tirelessly to promote the objectives of this Convention and the broader goals of sustainable development. She is sorely missed.

*Mr Chairman,*

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002, world leaders endorsed the CBD's target to achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss. The report of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment underlines the magnitude of this challenge: biodiversity continues to be lost at all levels, and most ecosystem services are in decline. This poses a significant barrier to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Climate change is one of the principal drivers of biodiversity change. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment finds that if global temperatures increase by more than 2°C from pre-industrial levels there will be significant net harmful impacts on ecosystems worldwide.

I would like to congratulate Parties on the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol and the steps taken at this meeting to make the Protocol fully operational. We should all be under no doubt as to the significance of the Protocol's ground-breaking agreement. If fully implemented, the Protocol will make a real contribution to mitigating climate change and thereby to reducing this threat to biodiversity.

Of course, the modalities of implementation are important, and we are pleased to note that the Marrakesh accords, formally adopted at this meeting, require that implementation of land use, land use change, and forestry activities contribute to the conservation of biodiversity.

In this context I would like to draw your attention to the work carried out by an expert group under the Convention on Biological Diversity, in close cooperation with the Secretariat and SBSTA of the Climate Change Convention, to address the interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change. The expert group identified opportunities to implement climate change mitigation activities in ways that are mutually beneficial to the Climate Change Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the CBD, as well as other international agreements. I am very pleased to observe that SBSTA of this Convention has welcomed the Report of the expert group, and encouraged UNFCCC Parties to make use of it.

*Mr Chairman,*

Climate change impacts on biodiversity are already discernable. The conferences of the parties to the CBD, the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species have highlighted impacts on coral reefs, forest ecosystems, wetlands and migratory species. While climate change mitigation activities are essential, urgent action is also needed to address these existing impacts. That is why the work of this meeting to develop a five year programme of work on adaptation is important not only for the climate change convention, but for the biodiversity-related conventions as well.

We trust that, as you develop the adaptation programme of work, you will bear in mind not only the urgent need to address the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, but also the need to appreciate the role of biodiversity – and of ecosystem integrity – in adaptation strategies. A series of natural events this year have underscored the critical role played by intact and healthy ecosystems in reducing the impacts of extreme events, including those associated with climate change and climate variability.

A second expert group meeting a few weeks ago in Helsinki, Finland, addressed biodiversity and adaptation to climate change. The expert group found that maintaining multiple aspects of biodiversity – from genetic diversity, through species population abundance and distribution, to ecosystem structure – can contribute to ecosystem resilience and reduced vulnerability to climate impacts.

The interactions between biodiversity and climate change have also been addressed by the Ramsar Convention which has emphasized the need to manage wetlands so as to increase their resilience to climate change and to reduce the risk of flooding and drought. The Convention on Migratory Species has called on range states to implement adaptation measures that would help reduce the effects of climate change on threatened migratory species, while the World Heritage Committee has identified the need to address the impacts of climate change on World Heritage sites.

*Mr Chairman,*

Last week, the scientific subsidiary bodies of our two conventions were both meeting here in Montreal. I am grateful to our host country – Canada – for taking this opportunity to organize an informal joint meeting, and to the chairs of the two SBST[T]As for facilitating the event. I believe that the fact that participants from the scientific subsidiary bodies of our two conventions have met together for the first time is another important step forwards in ensuring a consistent approach to issues of common concern.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Climate Change Convention and its Secretariat for the collaborative efforts to foster good working relations with the CBD.

I wish you a highly successful outcome to your meeting. Thank you.