



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**



2010 International Year of Biodiversity

STATEMENT

BY MR AHMED DJOGLAF

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

AT THE CLOSING SESSION

OF THE

**SIXTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING
GROUP ON ARTICLE 8(j) AND RELATED PROVISIONS OF
THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

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Life in harmony, into the future
いのちの共生を、未来へ
COP 10 / MOP 5

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

A votre réunion plénière d'hier, et à l'initiative du Brésil, vous avez tenu à rendre un dernier hommage à Monsieur Claude Lévi-Strauss, cet anthropologue de coeur qui a marqué notre siècle et dont l'oeuvre "Tristes tropiques" a approché l'Homme à travers ses sociétés, ses cultures, ses valeurs, ses croyances et ses traditions.

Par son "Regard éloigné" pour mieux embrasser et appréhender l'épaisseur, la complexité et la diversité du réel, il a mis en exergue et plaidé des vérités incontournables qui sont à la base et constituent les fondements mêmes à l'origine de la création de ce groupe de travail à Bratislava, il y a de cela 11 ans.

Il nous a appris que "l'autre" parce qu'il est différent n'est pas forcément inférieur. Il nous a enseigné que la diversité ne peut autoriser et encore moins justifier l'inégalité et que le « barbare » c'est d'abord celui qui croit à la barbarie. Aujourd'hui le barbare c'est celui qui continue à nier la relation ombilicale qui relie la nature, l'homme, sa culture, ses traditions et son héritage civilisationnel.

Le barbare c'est aussi celui qui refuse de voir le propre de l'Homme dans ce qu'il a de commun avec tous les autres dans toute leur diversité sans laquelle on ne saurait être les mêmes.

Claude Lévi-Strauss nous a enseigné que "le monde animal et le monde végétal ne sont pas utilisés seulement parce qu'ils sont là, mais aussi parce qu'ils proposent à l'Homme une méthode de pensée"

Cette méthode de pensée a inspiré les travaux de votre comité perpétuant ainsi l'héritage de Claude Lévi-Strauss.

This week your working group remained true to its origins and purpose: to give an effective voice to indigenous and local communities in the work of the Convention that is so important to them.

This subsidiary body of the Convention, unique to all United Nations system, has demonstrated that it is first and foremost a partnership between the 193 Parties to the Convention and the representatives of the indigenous and local communities.

The code of ethical conduct that you have just recommended for adoption by the Nagoya meeting will be known in the Mohawk terms as the *Tkarihwaïé:ri*—"the proper way". I will say that your sixth meeting will be known also as the "TGA-REE-WA-YIEREE", the proper way.

This weekend, Germany is celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Here during this week a German woman, your Chair, has contributed to the fall of another wall—that between the Parties and the indigenous and local communities.

I want to pay tribute to you, Nicola, and through you to the German people and Government for the leadership for the preparation and implementation of the Bonn Biodiversity Compact. I want to pay tribute to all 328 participants in this meeting, Parties and indigenous and local communities and their partners for this achievement.

I want also thank my colleagues in the Secretariat those in the podium, under the leadership of two indigenous representatives from Canada and Australia. Thank you, Olivier and John, and to the all those known as the "behind-the-scenes SCBD warriors". My gratitude goes also to the team of interpreters for their support as well as to the ICAO staff under the able leadership of Secretary-General Raymond Benjamin, who has instructed his staff that all services be provided to you during this meeting

As a great family, you have demonstrated the spirit that should guide us in the less than 55 days before the start of the historic International Year of Biodiversity, and you are all invited next Monday to join us for the official launch of the website of this international year of global solidarity among and between man and nature. This unique event in the life of the Convention will also coincide with the Aichi-Nagoya Summit, to be held under the slogan "Living in harmony, into the future".

Thank you, the people and Government of Japan. Thank you also, the people and Government of India for offering to host the New Delhi Biodiversity Summit during the twentieth anniversary of the

opening of signature of the Convention and of the Rio Conference on Environment and Development, another contribution of the people and the Government of Brazil in advancing the world environmental agenda . Thank you Fernando. Thank you to all of you for making us in the Secretariat proud to serve your cause of protecting life on Earth. Indeed, as the slogan for the International Year states, “Biodiversity is life, Biodiversity is our Life”.

I thank you for your attention.