



**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

**EIGHTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED
WORKING GROUP ON ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING**

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Life in harmony, into the future
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COP 10 / MOP 5

Mr. Co-Chairs,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Following yesterday's plenary presentation by Mr. Pierre du Plessis from Namibia, your Co-Chair, Mr. Tim Hodges stated that: "*The good spirit and positive attitude that prevailed during the proceedings of this eighth meeting of your Working Group have made it possible to turn the corner, and significant advances have been recorded in the way we deal with each other*". At this morning's meeting of the Bureau, Fernando and Tim stated that the establishment of an intersessional mechanism is one of the most important decisions ever adopted by the Working Group. This assessment was confirmed by the statements that we have just heard at this closing session of this unique meeting.

Indeed, after eight plenary sessions with 19 hours of negotiation and 220 formal interventions, the decisions that you have just adopted, including the Montreal Annex and the road-map to the ninth meeting of the Working Group, are a historic development with far-reaching positive implications. The understanding of the Co-Chairs on the nature of the international regime as agreed by you as well as by Mizuno-San speaking as the representative of incoming President of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, is indeed a historic development in our common journey to Nagoya, and the adoption, in less than one year from now, of a legally binding instrument on access and benefit-sharing.

In less than nine days from now, on 24 November, the world will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the publication of "On the Origin of Species" by Charles Darwin who once said, "*In the struggle for survival, the fittest win out at the expense of their rivals, because they succeed in adapting themselves best to their environment*". This applies not only to species, but also to individuals as well as to institutions including intergovernmental processes. This basic rule of nature is also valid for your committee.

With the historic spirit of collaboration demonstrated by the representatives of the 112 Parties as well as the United States of America and the 70 partners representing non-governmental organizations, indigenous and local communities and business and international organizations, the decisions that you have just adopted have elevated the Ad Hoc Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing to the *de facto* Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee of the a legally binding instrument on access and benefit-sharing. This would not have been possible without the leadership of the Co-Chairs, as evidenced by the 23 organized bilateral meetings with all the stakeholders and countless number of informal bilateral meetings. Thank you, Tim and Fernando.

This success would not have been possible without the leadership of the Bureau and its 20 hours of proceedings through its nine meetings held since last Sunday. Thank you, Jochen and thank you to all the members of the Bureau.

This would not have been possible without the leadership of the Co-Chairs of the various contact groups. Thank you, Jose Luis; Andreas; Damasus; Tone; Rene; Ricardo; Cosima and Pierre.

This would not have been possible without the progress achieved by the 479 participants in over 34 hours of negotiations of the 15 sessions of the contact groups.

This would not have been possible without the hard work of my colleagues in the Secretariat as well as the hidden SCBD warriors, including the interpreters. My special thanks to the translators that have made it possible to have this morning the documents in the six United Nations languages. Thank you, Tania and Teresa.

To you, Nancy, and through you to Canada, thank you for demonstrating once again your commitment to play you role as the host of the Secretariat of the Convention and its Protocol.

Thank you, Birthe and though you Norway for your always timely and very much financial and substantive support.

Thank you, Janet, for reminding us, through the timely establishment of the CBD Like-Minded in Spirit Group of Women, of the unique role of women in protecting life on earth as they are the epitome of life.

Thank you, Fernando for your personal contribution and the leadership of Brazil, the guardian as President of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the target for finalizing the

international regime and for reminding us of the culture of Japan and its relation with nature as the host of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the birthplace of the new baby of the Convention, whose birth we hope to be as easy as the two other babies of the Convention born this week in Montreal.

To all of you, thank you for making us proud in the Secretariat to serve you and to continue to provide you with the best of our ability, in spite of the very limited financial resources, in our common journey towards the adoption of the legally binding instrument on access and benefit-sharing. To do so, removing the 3,008 brackets in the Montreal Annex will be indeed the best contribution of the CBD family to mark the celebration of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity.

I wish you a very safe trip back home and hope to see you next year to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity as indeed, Biodiversity is life and Biodiversity is our life.

Thank you for your kind attention.