



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**



2010 International Year of Biodiversity

## **STATEMENT**

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF**

**THE GLOBE CBD PARLIAMENTARIANS FORUM**

**25 OCTOBER 2010  
NAGOYA, JAPAN**



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

Distinguished Parliamentarians,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This past May the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 showed that today we humans continue to drive species extinct and degrade ecosystems at an unprecedented rate, greatly putting at risk the wellbeing of future generations. As legislators and parliamentarians, you have a crucial role to play in reversing these trends. Indeed you have three core mandates in support of the Parties you represent – mandates that make your engagement in the finalization and implementation of the 2011-2020 biodiversity strategy both something we cannot do without, and a deep responsibility.

First, you turn the decisions and goals of the Convention into laws and regulations at all levels of government. Second, you monitor the implementation of biodiversity plans and programmes of their respective governments in a “watchdog” function. And third, through their regular exchanges with constituents and during elections, you gauge voters’ needs and expectations related to biodiversity, and translate those trends into laws, supporting national governments in implementing the Convention.

There is no better sign of your willingness to step up to the challenge of putting a stop to the unacceptable loss of biodiversity than to see that you have come to Nagoya from more than 40 Parties. This movement started in 2008, when the German Parliament transferred its regular session, which is normally held in Berlin, to Bonn to follow COP9. Subsequently, Ms. Petra Bierwirth, head of the Environment Committee of the German Parliament, held a high-level meeting on parliamentarians and biodiversity in Bonn, which adopted the Bonn Declaration on Parliamentarians and Biodiversity.

In this historic declaration Parliamentarians recognized their “responsibility to take the necessary legislative, administrative and/or policy actions needed at the national level to honour the obligations of the Convention and to mainstream biodiversity considerations into the development agenda through the implementation of specific legislation, policies and budgetary frameworks.”

In order to build on this vision, the recent WGRI meeting in Nairobi saw the Parties emphasize the need to broaden political support by ensuring that Parliamentarians of all Parties understand the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services. It also highlighted that Parliamentarians, by responding to the needs and expectations of citizens on a regular basis, should play a role in reviewing the implementation of the Convention its 2011-2020 Strategic Plan at the national and sub-national levels, for instance through inter-parliamentary dialogues.

This prestigious event is proof that this process had begun on a strong note. I would like to thank GLOBE International for their efforts in organizing this meeting with the full and valuable support of GLOBE Japan. Allow me single out the leadership of MP Barry Gardiner, Co-Chair of GLOBE’s International Commission on Land Use Change & Ecosystems, who thankfully has recently been reelected to a new term.

We will need more such leadership from Parliamentarians over the years to come if we are to stop and eventually reverse the unacceptable rate of loss of life on Earth.

Thank you for your kind attention.