



STATEMENT BY

MR. AHMED DJOGHLAF

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

ON THE OCCASION OF

**JOINT EXPERT MEETING ON ADDRESSING BIODIVERSITY CONCERN IN
SUSTAINABLE FISHERY**

**BERGEN, NORWAY
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Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220, Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



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Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to extend my warmest welcome to all the participants and express our greatest thanks for participating in this important meeting on addressing biodiversity concerns in sustainable fishery.

I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Government of Norway for hosting and providing financial support to the organization of this meeting in this beautiful and cultural city of Bergen.

Our special thanks also go to the local organizing committee at the Institute of Marine Research for their great hospitality and efficient team work in providing all the necessary logistics needs for the meeting.

I also thank the representatives of FAO, UNEP and the Fisheries Expert Group of IUCN-CEM as well as the experts at Institute of Marine Research for their excellent collaboration and contribution in preparing the background documents as inputs to the meeting deliberation.

In Nagoya, October last year, the Conference of Parties to the Convention, at its tenth meeting, adopted a new ten year Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the next decade. The Strategic Plan for 2011-2020 presents 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including Target 6, for which 193 Parties are committed, ***"By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.***

Likewise, in decision X/29 on marine and coastal biodiversity, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention noted information gaps and an urgent need for further collaboration with FAO, UNEP and IUCN to review the impacts of unsustainable fishing, such as destructive fishing practices, overfishing, and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, on marine and coastal biodiversity and habitats.

With this background, this meeting is being convened by the CBD Secretariat to review the extent to which biodiversity concerns are addressed in existing assessments. This review will also have a special focus on the impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity of pelagic fisheries of lower trophic levels. Based on the review results, the meeting is tasked to propose options to address biodiversity concerns. The results of this meeting will be reported to the 16th meeting the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), scheduled for April 2012.

As such, I wish to remind the participants that your deliberation and contribution would be very valuable in assisting Parties in their endeavours toward achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 on sustainable fishery. Your kind efforts would also facilitate engaging both biodiversity and fishery communities to work together toward the common vision of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.

Distinguished Participants,

In order to effectively facilitate efforts at global, regional and national levels toward achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine areas, the CBD Secretariat has set the theme of 2012 International Biodiversity Day on marine and coastal biodiversity.

The global celebration of International Biodiversity Day on the theme of marine biodiversity will bring unprecedented opportunities to engage political leaderships, senior policy makers, different industries, and various civil society groups in addressing complex challenges to marine biodiversity, further compounded by the threats of climate change and ocean acidification.

The outcomes of our collective efforts will then be presented at the high level segment of 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties being hosted by India in October 2012.

CBD Secretariat would like to invite all of you to join hands together with the Convention Parties and partners to make all these global opportunities meaningful and successful.

Finally, I wish you a fruitful and successful meeting deliberation.

Thank you for your attention!