

The Jakarta Charter on Business and Biodiversity

We, the participants attending the Third Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge Conference, held in Jakarta from 30 November to 2 December 2009,

Deeply concerned that resilience of ecosystems and their capacity to adapt remain under serious threat worldwide, and noted that climate change is a threat and requires focussed efforts to protect biodiversity,

Stressing that sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity together with ecological restoration offers growing business opportunities while addressing climate change through instruments such as that on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD plus) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Emphasizing the need to incorporate biodiversity risks and opportunities into business strategies and mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services into business policies and practices,

Acknowledging the ongoing work of the UNEP Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study that was presented at the Jakarta Conference,

Recognizing the progress made over the past decade in integrating biodiversity conservation in business strategies and commends companies that have demonstrated commitment and leadership in this regard,

Noting the critical importance of tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, and its objective of setting the global agenda for action for the next decade,

Have agreed as follows:

1. The value of biodiversity and ecosystem services needs to be better reflected in economic models and policies, bearing in mind that sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystem services are a source for future business operations as well as a condition for new business opportunities and markets;

2. Mainstreaming biodiversity into business needs to be enhanced through voluntary corporate actions as well as market-oriented enabling policies and approaches such as the Green Development Mechanism, international standards and certification systems and related initiatives. In this context, State-owned corporations can also play a leadership role in supporting the three

objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity¹ by incorporating biodiversity into their operations and procurement policies;

3. Integrating biodiversity into business can also contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development especially through joint ventures with the indigenous and local communities;

4. The concept of no-net-loss of biodiversity and net-positive impact, as articulated by the Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme, is a practical framework for assessing efforts to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity;

5. Improving the quantity, quality, availability of biodiversity data to facilitate business decision making and action that will support biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;

6. Increasing awareness and education of consumers, investors and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and other stakeholders regarding biodiversity;

7. To scale up existing innovations and champion good practices, tools, etc., on a comprehensive capacity-building scheme oriented towards competence enhancement for critical decision-making and action-taking, addressing all stakeholders;

8. Supporting the establishment of an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services to play an important role in ensuring that biodiversity becomes and remains a priority for public- and private-sector decision makers;

9. It is imperative to work together for creating a public-policy environment that encourages greater private-sector engagement and mainstreaming of biodiversity into corporate strategies and decision-making for achieving the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and having Governments commit themselves to internalizing sustainable sourcing in their procurement policies, thus demonstrating leadership by example;

10. A visionary and effective *Strategy to Advance the 2020 Business and Biodiversity Agenda*, focusing in particular on the scaling up of successful approaches for mainstreaming biodiversity into business operations to be considered by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting, to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010;

11. Improving the commitment and leadership of the private sector will be vital for the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention for the period 2011-2020 as well as the post-2010 biodiversity targets;

12. Building on the experience of the last three Biodiversity Challenge Conferences, there is a need for a multi-sectoral global forum on business and biodiversity for promoting dialogue and partnerships between Parties, representatives of business, civil-society representatives and other stakeholders to advance the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its new Strategic Plan;

¹ The three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity are the conservation of biological diversity, the use of the components of biological diversity in a sustainable manner, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of biological diversity.

13. The first global forum on business and biodiversity may be convened as soon as possible and no later than the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

14. Businesses are encouraged to express their commitment to the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity by endorsing the Jakarta Charter on Business and Biodiversity and participating actively in the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in conjunction with which a International Business and Ecosystems Day, being coorganized on 26 October 2010 by IUCN, the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and Nippon Keidanren² with the support of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, will provide a further important opportunity for the engagement of business in supporting the core objectives of the Convention;

15. To thank the people and Government of Indonesia for hosting the third Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge Conference.

Jakarta, 2 December 2009

² The Japanese Business Federation.