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27 September 2010

**NOTIFICATION**  
**Geneva Ministerial Biodiversity Call for Immediate Action**

Dear Madam/Sir,

With the financial support of the Government of Switzerland, an International Ministerial Forum of past, present and upcoming presidencies of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was held in Geneva on 3 September at the Château de Bossey in Switzerland. The Geneva Ministerial Biodiversity Call for Immediate Action was adopted and signed by the participants. It was officially submitted to the High Level Event of the High Level Meeting on Biodiversity of the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly and will be distributed as an official document of High Level Segment of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, scheduled to take place on 27- 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.

The document can also be accessed at the CBD's website at:  
<http://www.cbd.int/doc/un/unga65/iyb-hle-geneva-call4action.pdf>

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif  
Executive Secretary

To: All CBD, CPB Focal Points, International Organizations, NGOs, ILCs

## Geneva Ministerial Biodiversity Call for Immediate Action

We, the Ministers responsible for biodiversity of the countries who have held or will hold the Presidency of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, having met in Geneva on 3 September 2010, with the kind support of the Government of Switzerland, affirm that:

- Biological diversity plays a key role in maintaining the benign conditions of our planet that are the basis of the well-being of human societies and very survival of our species;
- Only by conserving biodiversity, using it sustainably, and sharing the benefits arising out of the utilization of its genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge will we ensure the continued provision of the ecosystem services upon which we all depend;

We note with extreme concern that:

- The Johannesburg biodiversity target to reduce significantly the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 has not been met in full, and biodiversity continues to be lost at an unprecedented rate and is being compounded by climate change;
- Implementation of the Convention is constrained by: insufficient human, technical and financial resources, especially in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing states, as well as countries with economies in transition; insufficient integration of biodiversity issues into broader policies, strategies and programmes; lack of an international regime on Access and Benefit Sharing; lack of awareness about importance of biodiversity and incomplete understanding of opportunity costs and valuation of ecosystem services.
- The third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook published in May 2010 confirms that human actions are putting such strain on the environment that the ability of the planet's ecosystems to sustain future generations can no longer be taken for granted and that the pressures driving the loss of biodiversity show few signs of easing and the consequences of current trends are much worse than previously thought;
- As demonstrated by the Global Biodiversity Outlook, if current trends are allowed to continue over the next decade, several "tipping points" will be reached before the end of the century with irreparable damage to the ability of major ecosystems to continue providing their goods and services;

- The fate of biodiversity for millennia to come will be determined by action or inaction over the next decade or two.

We declare that:

Equal attention must be given to the three objectives of the Convention: the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources

- All countries should commit themselves to a common long-term vision and short-term mission for biodiversity and to global, regional and national targets to be achieved;
- These targets need to be both ambitious and realistic; they need to be understandable to policy-makers and the public;
- National targets should be developed in the light of national circumstances and capabilities;
- Implementation of these the new biodiversity Strategy needs to be supported by the Strategy for Resource Mobilization for the provision of adequate and predictable financial resources, and technology transfer, to developing countries;
- The new biodiversity mission requires the full engagement of all stakeholders and welcome the Business and Biodiversity initiative and call for the active engagement of the Business community in the implementation of the post 2010 Biodiversity Strategy;
- The issues of climate change and biodiversity loss are inextricably linked; each can exacerbate the impacts of the other, but at the same time there are policy options that can address both issues. The identification of such co-benefits is essential at global, regional and national levels. In particular the implementation of voluntary REDD/REDD+ mechanisms should be done to enrich biodiversity.

We call upon all governments to the High-level Meeting on Biodiversity of the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly to provide participants at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity with clear guidance for concluding a Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) at Nagoya and for adopting and implementing the new biodiversity vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> century that will reduce and ultimately halt the net loss of biodiversity such that vital ecosystem services are maintained. We stress that the new biodiversity strategy for 2011-2020 will provide

an overarching framework for action by all biodiversity partners.

We support the initiative of Japan to recommend that the United Nations consider declaring 2011-2020 as the International Decade for Biodiversity.

We also call upon all countries that have not yet done so to accede to the Convention as soon as possible.

We decide to establish an informal ministerial COP Presidency biodiversity forum. This forum will meet periodically at relevant biodiversity-related ministerial meetings to exchange views and provide leadership in the implementation of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention as well as during the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, if it is declared so by the UNGA. The meetings will be convened by the country presiding the Conference of the Parties with the support of the Executive Secretary.

We decide that the Geneva Ministerial Biodiversity Call for Immediate Action be presented to the High Level Event of the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly to be held in New York on 22 September, 2010 as well as the High Level Segment of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan on 27- 29 October, 2010.

His Excellency Prof. Dr. Gusti Muhammad Hatta, Minister of Environment, Indonesia  
President COP-2, 1995-1996)

on behalf of the Minister

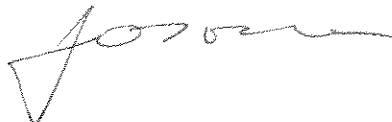


For His Excellency Dr. Homero Máximo Bibiloni, Minister of Environment and Sustainable  
Development, Argentina  
President COP-3, 1996-1998



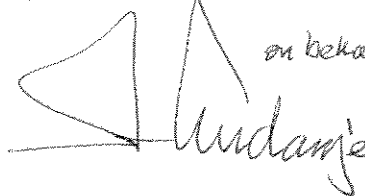
His Excellency Mr. Zsolt Simon, Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Regional  
Development, Slovakia  
President COP-4, 1998-2000

on behalf of minister



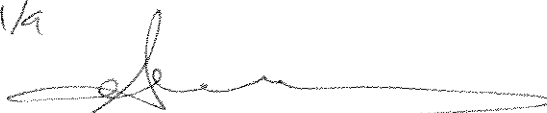
His Excellency Mr. John Michuki, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources  
Kenya  
President COP-5, 2000-2002

on behalf of the minister

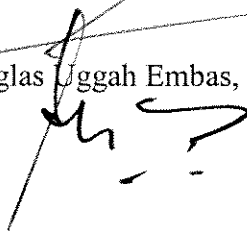


Her Excellency Ms. Gerda Verburg, Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality,  
The Netherlands  
President COP-6, 2002-2004

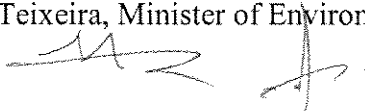
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For His Excellency Dato Seri Douglas Uggah Embas, Minister of Natural Resources and  
Environment, Malaysia  
President COP-7, 2004-2006



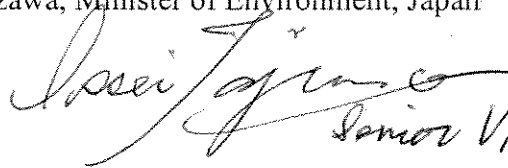
Her Excellency Mrs. Izabella Teixeira, Minister of Environment, Brazil  
President COP-8, 2006-2008



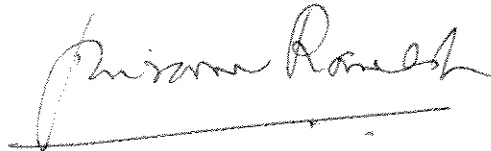
His Excellency Dr. Norbert Röttgen, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature  
Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany  
President COP-9, 2008-2010



*For* His Excellency Mr. Sakihito Ozawa, Minister of Environment, Japan  
President COP-10, 2010-2012

  
Senior Vice Minister

His Excellency Mr. Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for  
Environment and Forests, India  
Potential President COP-11, 2012-2014



His Excellency Mr. Moritz Leuenberger, Minister of Environment, Switzerland  
Host of the Geneva meeting

