



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

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CBD EXECUTIVE SECRETARY APPLAUDS JAPAN'S DECISION TO REVISE ITS BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY FOR THE SECOND TIME WITH A VIEW OF LINKING IT TO THE WORLD AND INTEGRATE THE TARGET ADOPTED BY HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT TO SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE THE RATE OF LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY BY 2010

Montreal – 29 January 2007

The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Ahmed Djoghlaif, congratulated Japan on its decision to revise its national biodiversity strategy and incorporate it with common global concerns, such as the 2010 target of achieving a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss.

Addressing the 300 participants to the international symposium on the revision of Japan's biodiversity strategy Mr. Djoghlaif applauded "Japan's decision to revise its biodiversity strategy to integrate the commitment taken by 110 Heads of State and Government at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development to significantly reduce biodiversity loss by 2010, as it is a model that needs to be followed by the rest of the international community if the promise is to be fulfilled."

Mr. Djoghlaif added, "I also applaud Japan's decision to make its strategy a living document to be adjusted every five years in order to integrate the latest developments in the implementation of the Convention, thus elevating it as a major tool of the translation of the three objectives of the Convention at the national level." Initially adopted in 1995 to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, the national biodiversity strategy of Japan was first revised in 2002.

The Executive Secretary's visit to Japan comes in the wake of a decision adopted by the Japanese Cabinet, on 16 January to offer to host the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in 2010.

"The decision taken by Japan at the cabinet level three years in advance of the meeting is unique and needs to be applauded and emulated," said Mr. Djoghlaif. "I hope a host for the 2012 meeting will soon be identified so as to establish a triple presidency of the Conference of the Parties for the period 2008-2012. Regarding the protection of life on Earth, Mr. Djoghlaif emphasized that "we need continuity, long-term planning as well as sustained and coordinated efforts at local, national and global levels ."

During his visit to Japan, the Executive Secretary finalized the negotiation of a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations University Institute of



Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS), located in Yokohama, to enhance inter-agency cooperation for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on life on Earth.

During his visit to Tokyo, the Executive Secretary met with the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, senior officials in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Environment, and Agriculture as well as the Mayor of Nagoya, the Vice-Governor of Aichi Prefecture. The Executive Secretary also met with representatives of Nippon Keidanren (Japanese Business Federation) as well as the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

“The biodiversity assembly in 2010,” said Mr. Djoghla, “will be of crucial importance as it coincides with the 2010 Target, the adoption of a new international regime on access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources, as well as the celebration of the International Year on Biodiversity. I would therefore like to pay tribute to the government and the people of Japan as well as to the Mayor of Nagoya and the Governor of Aichi for offering to host this crucial meeting of the Convention on life on Earth. Japan, has indeed made a unique contribution to the climate change agenda through the Kyoto Protocol and we expect a similar contribution in the field of biological diversity.”

A decision on the venue and date of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be adopted in Bonn, Germany in May 2008.

Information for Journalists:

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The Convention on Biological Diversity is one of the most broadly subscribed international environmental treaties in the world. Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, it currently has 189 Parties—188 States and the European Community—who have committed themselves to its three main goals: the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The Secretariat of the Convention is located in Montreal.

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