

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WELCOMES THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE TO THE IPCC AND AL GORE

The Executive Secretary, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, today welcomed the announcement of the Nobel Peace Prize being awarded jointly to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Mr. Al Gore.

In welcoming the announcement Mr. Djoghlaif praised the Nobel Committee for highlighting the increased danger of violent conflicts and wars, within and between States, posed by climate change and its consequences on the loss of biodiversity.

He further congratulated the IPCC and its over 2,000 scientists world wide who contributed to the reports for creating an ever-broader informed consensus about the connection between human activities and global warming and the loss of biodiversity. He also congratulated Mr. Al Gore for his work in creating greater public awareness throughout the world as well as for his personal contribution as a United States Senator to the Convention on Biological Diversity during the 1992 Rio Summit.

Mr. Djoghlaif also congratulated the Nobel Prize Committee for having chosen the prize winners for the second time in its history for their environmental contribution to international peace and security. He said that: "Climate change has become one of the greatest drivers of biodiversity loss, which in turn will compound the climate crisis and undermine the efforts of the international community to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including poverty alleviation and ensuring environmental sustainability."

Mr. Djoghlaif noted the appeal of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for a long-term global response to deal with climate change with the unified efforts of all Member States and that of other international bodies, including the Convention on Biological Diversity.

"We must be guided by the reality that inaction now will prove the costliest action of all in the long term." –UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon