



Communiqué

SOMALIA TO BECOME THE 193RD PARTY TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The Secretariat is pleased to announce that Somalia has deposited its instrument of accession to the Convention on Biological Diversity and will become the 193rd Party to the Convention as of 10 December 2009. As a major biodiversity hotspot in the Horn of Africa, Somalia's accession is a major step in achieving universal membership for the Convention of Life on Earth.

“This accession is also of strategic importance for the future of achieving the sustainable development objectives as we will become a full member of the international community,” said Mr. Buri Hamza, Minister of the Environment of Somalia. He further added that: “Despite the difficult circumstances facing my country, the Government of Somalia is committed to playing its full role in international efforts to achieving the objectives of the Convention.”

Somalia contains a wealth of biodiversity. According to Conservation International's Biodiversity Hotspots, hundreds of new species have been discovered in Somalia in the last 20 years, among them the Somali cyclamen (*Cyclamen somalense*) otherwise found only in the Mediterranean region.

Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention, received the news while attending the pre-festival held in Aichi/Nagoya one year before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties with the participation of more than 20,000 participants.

Welcoming Somalia's accession as the 193rd Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Djoghlaif said: “Somalia's accession to the Convention on Biological Diversity is welcome news for the biodiversity family as a whole. It has taken place while Japan, its government and its people, as the host of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, is redoubling its efforts lead by example. During my visit this week to Tokyo, Nagoya and Kobe, I have been the witness of such exceptional efforts. The Aichi-Nagoya Biodiversity Summit will be hosted by an exceptional host. I therefore sincerely hope that this Summit being held under the slogan “Life in Harmony, into the Future” will be also exceptional with the participation of the entire family of nations without exception. A universal Convention on Life on Earth is essential for securing our common future. Indeed, how best to celebrate in 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity than gathering as a universal family united under the aegis of the Convention of Life on Earth with its 195 Parties and their partners united and committed to protect life on Earth. Indeed, “Biodiversity is Life; Biodiversity is our Life.”

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Convention on
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Life in harmony, into the future