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PRESS RELEASE

ENSURING COMPLIANCE OF ALL PARTIES WITH THEIR REPORTING OBLIGATIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET

Manama, Bahrain, 12 April 2010—At the World Summit on Sustainable Development, world leaders agreed to substantially reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010. The 193 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity decided to submit before March 2009 a national report on the implementation of the Johannesburg target. The review will be essential for designing and agreeing on the post-2010 biodiversity target at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010 with the participation of more than 10,000 people. The meeting will be preceded on 22 September 2010 by a high-level segment of the United Nations General Assembly on biodiversity with participation of Heads of State and Government.

To date, 120 Parties to the Convention have submitted their national reports. With the financial support of Japan as the host country of the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit, a series of measures have been agreed to ensure a 100 per cent rate of submission of national reports before October 2010. To this end, a Regional Workshop for Asia and the Horn of Africa is being convened in Manama, Bahrain, from 12 to 15 April 2010.

“Ensuring a 100 per cent rate of submission of national reports by Parties on the implementation of the Johannesburg biodiversity target is key to the success of the new Strategic Plan of the Convention for the next decade. These reports are crucial also for the success of the New York Summit on Biodiversity which will offer a unique opportunity to the leaders of the world assembled as a supreme body of the United Nations to provide leadership and vision for meeting the unprecedented challenges of the continued loss of biodiversity compounded by climate change,” said Ahmed Djoghlaif, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Representatives from over 14 countries—including six Gulf countries, attending the workshop will exchange and discuss about relevant practices, tools and approaches for reviewing implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and assessing progress



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towards the 2010 target and implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Through doing all this, the workshop aims to push early finalization of the fourth national reports by participating countries as well as to strengthen their national capacities in monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The workshop is expected to generate specific suggestions to help countries prepare and finalize the fourth national report. Participants will share their experiences in reviewing implementation of the Convention particularly progress towards the 2010 target, as well as thoughts for celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity and further planning in response to the possible outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, particularly the strategic goals and targets to be included in the new Strategic Plan of the Convention up to 2020.

Dr. Habib El Habr, Regional Director of the Regional Office for West Asia of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/ROWA), said: “The report, in a novel effort, strengthens synergies for achieving the ambitious 2010 biodiversity target. Success in fulfilling the promise to substantially reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity is vital. Now is the time for collaboration.” He added that: “Over the last 50 years, humans have changed ecosystems faster and more extensively than in any comparable period of time in human history. To face the challenges of our time, we need a shift in our thinking to protect our life-support systems.”

Dr. Adel Khalifa Al Zayani, Director General of the Public Commission for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife, said: “Achieving sound goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity is a joint responsibility that requires the concerted efforts of individuals, states and regions. Without a doubt, the organization of this workshop will contribute to building national capacities that Parties will benefit from to meet their obligations towards the Convention. Furthermore this workshop will provide a platform for participating countries to exchange information and experiences and establish a network between the experts of the region.”

The workshop in Manama is particularly important as this year is the International Year of Biodiversity and a number of very important meetings will be held this year to review progress towards the 2010 biodiversity and elaborate future biodiversity goals and targets, based on information from the fourth national reports. It will offer an opportunity for the people of the region to contribute to the celebration of this unique event in the life of the convention on life on Earth aimed at engaging the people of the world in protecting life on earth as the slogan of this event is biodiversity is life... biodiversity is our life

Structure of the fourth national report

The guidelines for the fourth national report are composed of four main chapters that comprise an overview of biodiversity status, trends and threats, as well as the current status of national biodiversity strategies, the sectoral and cross-sectoral integration of biodiversity considerations, and the progress towards the 2010 target and implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Throughout the report, Parties are requested to focus on the outcomes and impacts of actions taken to implement the Convention, the success stories and the major obstacles they faced.

Notes to Editors:

The Workshop for Asia and Horn of Africa on the Preparation of the Fourth National Report under the Convention on Biological Diversity will take place at Elite SPA and Resort, Manama, Bahrain, from 12 to 15 April 2010.

For more information and supporting documentation please visit: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=4NRCBW-AHA>

For information on the fourth national report: <https://www.cbd.int/nr4/> and <http://www.cbd.int/reports/guidelines/>

For information on the national reports: <https://www.cbd.int/reports/national.shtml#nr4>

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The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 193 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, a supplementary treaty to the Convention, seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 156 countries and the European Community are party to the Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol is located in Montreal.

For more information visit www.cbd.int www.cbd.int/2010

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-10)

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-10) will take place in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture in Japan from 18 to 29 October 2010. The fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol will be held at the same venue, from 11 to 15 October 2010.

For more information visit www.cbd.int/cop10 and www.cbd.int/mop5

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