



PRESS RELEASE

UN Biodiversity Chief becomes Honorary Councillor of World Future Council

Hamburg, 19 May 2011 – United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaflaf has become an Honorary Councillor of the World Future Council (WFC). Using the slogan “Biodiversity is Life. Biodiversity is Our Life”, Mr. Djoghlaflaf was instrumental in leading the United Nations biodiversity summit in Nagoya, Japan, in 2010 to success and assured the adoption of the historic Nagoya Biodiversity Compact by 193 countries.

“Governments,” said Mr. Djoghlaflaf, “must show political leadership in developing and enforcing visionary laws. The World Future Council brings the interests of future generations to the centre of policy making. At the same time, it provides decision makers with effective policy solutions. I strongly support this concept and am delighted to be part of the Council”.

The World Future Council is an international forum, with up to 50 Councillors from around the globe who successfully promote change. The WFC’s mission is to inform decision makers about the challenges facing future generations and to provide them with practical policy solutions. Jakob von Uexküll, WFC Founder, said: “In the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity the World Future Council is joined by one of the world’s most influential and renowned personalities in the field of sustainable development and protection of global biodiversity. With Ahmed Djoghlaflaf as Honorary Councillor, the WFC can promote best policies for current and future generations even more effectively”.

Ahmed Djoghlaflaf is an Algerian national and has pursued a distinguished diplomatic career that has included postings with the Government of Algeria and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). He was formerly the Assistant Executive Director of UNEP and Director of the Division of the Global Environment Facility Coordination. Prior to joining the United Nations, he held a variety of important posts in the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was advisor on environmental issues to the Prime Minister of Algeria and, prior to that, to three Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Algeria. Mr. Djoghlaflaf has lectured frequently on topics related to the Global Environment.

Councillors of the World Future Council include Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Prof. Wangari Maathai from Kenya, Ashok Khosla from India, President of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Alexander Likhotal from Russia, President of the Green Cross International, Anders Wijkman from Sweden, former President of Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE), Francisco Whitaker Ferreira from Brazil, Co-Founder of the World Social Forum and Pauline Tangiora, Maori elder, Rongomaiwahine Tribe.

Notes to Editors

The World Future Council

The World Future Council brings the interests of future generations to the centre of policy-making. Its up to 50 eminent members from around the globe have already successfully promoted change. The Council addresses challenges to our common future and provides decision makers with effective policy solutions. With its Future Policy Award the Council celebrates the world's most exemplary national policies that create better living conditions for current and future generations. In close cooperation with civil society, parliamentarians, governments, business and international organizations the World Future Council identifies future just policies around the globe. The World Future Council is registered as a charitable foundation in Hamburg, Germany. For more information, visit www.worldfuturecouncil.org; For information on the Future Policy Award: www.worldfuturecouncil.org/future_policy_award.html

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 is a subsidiary agreement to the Convention. It seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 161 countries plus the European Union have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol is located in Montreal, Canada. For more information visit www.cbd.int