



COMMUNIQUÉ

Ninety per cent rate achieved in submissions of fourth national reports

Montreal, 8 August 2011 – Ninety per cent of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have submitted their fourth national reports. The Convention Secretariat has to date received 175 fourth national reports. Submitting a national report is an obligation that needs to be implemented by all 193 Parties without exception.

Speaking in his capacity as the President of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10), held in Nagoya in October 2010, the Minister of the Environment of Japan, H.E. Mr. Satsuki Eda, stated: “Japan is very pleased of having made its contribution in ensuring a submission of a maximum number of fourth national reports, as the information provided by the Parties greatly assisted in designing and adopting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.”

Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary, welcomed the contribution of the 175th Party to submit its report, stating that: “By completing their reports, Parties are not only fulfilling their obligations under the Convention, they are also providing an analysis for their updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as a baseline against which future progress can be assessed. I call upon the remaining 18 Parties that have not done so to submit their fourth national reports as soon as possible.”

Mr. Djoghlaif thanked the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for providing financial resources to eligible Parties through the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as Japan for its unique contribution to ensure the maximum rate of submissions before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, Held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, thus contributing to the objective of achieving a 100% submission rate of national reports.

“I congratulate the Parties to the Convention on the number of national reports submitted so far. National reporting can be an effective tool toward achieving the objectives of the Convention at the national level. It also helps identify gaps in implementation and charts the course of future actions. As the financial mechanism for this Convention, the GEF is pleased to be a key partner supporting this tremendous achievement, and the Secretariat will continue to provide resources for preparing future national reports,” said Mrs. Monique Barbut, GEF Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson.

The reporting deadline for the fourth national reports, established by the Conference of the Parties at the eighth meeting, held in 2006, was 30 March 2009. The receipt of a critical mass of fourth national reports before the tenth meeting was essential to the preparation of key assessments of progress towards the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the 2002-2010 Strategic Plan for the Convention, as well as to the preparation of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3) launched in May 2010, which provides a summary of biodiversity status and trends. Thus conclusions drawn from the information contained in the fourth national reports were instrumental to the formulation of new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, adopted by the Parties in Nagoya. The fourth national reports will continue to be used for reviews of implementation of the Convention to be undertaken at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in October 2012, as well as at some important inter-sessional meetings such as the fourth meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, the fifteenth and sixteenth meetings of

the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and the Working Group on Article 8(j).

The improvement in submission rates reflects the higher importance and greater efforts many Parties have given to the timely preparation of the report. It may also be attributed to the longer time given for preparing the report, as well as to the efforts made by the Convention Secretariat, the Global Environment Facility and other partners in facilitating the preparation and submission of the report.

The significant improvements over the submission rates of previous reports notwithstanding, the rate of submission of national reports remains unsatisfactory. Only 14 per cent of Parties met the mandatory deadline of 30 March 2009 established by Parties themselves.

All final versions of the fourth national reports are available on the Convention's website at: www.cbd.int/reports/search/

The tenth meeting decided that the fifth national reports are due by 31 March 2014 and that reports should focus on implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Parties are encouraged to initiate work as early as possible on revising and updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in line with the new plan and targets, and on preparing their fifth national report. Further details are available at: www.cbd.int/nr5/
