



# Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



INTERNATIONAL  
DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY  
**22 May 2008**  
**BIODIVERSITY  
AND AGRICULTURE**

## STATEMENT BY AHMED DJOGHLAF, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AT THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

*Bonn, 30 May 2008*

Mr. President  
Ladies and gentlemen,

What you have just seen is one of the films which received an award from the first film festival on biodiversity, held under the theme “Just before midnight”. I had the honour and the privilege of handing over last week the Oscar to the two young filmmakers, Ms. Denise Faust and Miss Bettina, who are with us tonight. They were among the 40 young filmmakers, both amateur and professional, that have contributed to this first ever film festival “Just before midnight”.

For us a new Cannes Film Festival of the new culture of tomorrow has started, and I want to pay tribute to the film makers who were given 40 hours to prepare a 7-minute film on biodiversity. This has been done by Germany, an exceptional host. This was one of the many exceptional events that took place at this exceptional meeting.

The first-ever Bonn Biodiversity Summit was indeed historic. The Journey to Bonn started on 29 March 2006 in the great city of Curitiba, in the great state of Parana and the great country of Brazil, where the enhanced phase of implementation of the three objectives of the Convention was born. Curitiba—the “City of the People”—will be remembered by future generations as the city where a new phase of the implementation of the convention on life on Earth.

To the Government and people of Brazil, to the President of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Ms. Marina Silva, *Obrigado* for your unique contribution as President. Indeed the Curitiba-Bonn journey was exceptional. And for an exceptional meeting, an exceptional host—the people and the Government of Germany.

More than 200 events related to the Conference of the Parties had been organized before the Bonn Summit. A biodiversity campaign was launched by Minister Sigmar Gabriel on the occasion of World Environment Day, and the results I think are right in front of you. Planet Diversity—a world congress on the future of food and agriculture—was organized with the participation of 6,000 people. This is the new Porto Alegre World Social Forum, but for biodiversity.

The Naturathlon with more than 600 participants from 92 countries was also organized. A live concert on biodiversity was held with more than 5,000 people. The global Green Wave initiative was launched with the motto “One school, one tree, one gift for nature”, as a joint initiative between the Secretariat and the Government of Germany. In support of the Green Wave, the Bonn Biodiversity Children’s Campaign (BBCC) with the slogan “Double B, Double C, a double gift for nature and children” was also launched. The Double B, Double C campaign aims at collecting one billion signatures from the children of the world to be given to the Heads of States and Government attending the 2010 United Nations General Assembly Summit on Biodiversity. I am very proud to tell you that as of 5 p.m. today we have already received 1,700 signatures. The petition will be open for signature in the city halls



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COP 9 MOP 4 Bonn Germany 2008



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of all the 150 mayors and representatives that attended the first-ever Bonn mayors` meeting on biodiversity. It will be in UNDP offices in the field and in all small grant programmes in 100 countries. We hope that we will be able to bring the hope expressed by the children to Nagoya, when all the world will be watching us

This meeting was a big one, the largest biodiversity gathering ever to take place here in Bonn: 4,600 delegates, more than 184 Parties, 244 side-events, with 82 of them organized by the business community alone, and more than 664 journalists from 27 countries. For the first time, a meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention was webcast live, thanks to the collaboration of the staff of the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This is synergy between the Rio conventions in action.

The high-level segment was exceptional. For the first time, a Heads of State and Government component was organized. For the first time, we in Secretariat were blessed by the participation of the Prime Minister of Canada, the host of the Secretariat. For the first time, a host has announced a contribution of 400 million euros for biodiversity and 40 million euros for the Life Web Initiative. Sixty-four countries have announced their participation to this unique initiative aimed at promoting additional marine and terrestrial protected areas for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention. The engagement of the Ministers in the negotiation of key issues was unique. The Global Biodiversity Ministerial Forum was born.

Tonight's closing plenary is also historic. We have witnessed history being made from the beginning to the end of the Bonn Biodiversity meeting. The meeting was opened by welcoming Brunei Darussalam as the 192nd Party, and we have heard tonight that Iraq has finalized its internal procedures for accession and will become soon the 193rd Party. Andorra will soon become the 194th Party.

For the first time, a country decided, at Cabinet level and almost three years in advance, to offer to host the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Today, the decision on the dates and venue of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties was adopted with an impressive high-level delegation from Japan, including municipal and regional authorities of Japan. The Nagoya authorities, the officials of Aichi Prefecture, the national authorities as well as the people of Japan are indeed fully prepared to welcome the world to Nagoya in 2010.

For the first time, we had a Conference of the Parties not only announcing the date and venue of its next meeting—COP 10—but also having Ecuador announcing its candidature for COP-11, four years in advance. Indeed as you said, Mr. President, CBD is in life.

Thirty-six decisions, totalling more than 205 pages, more than 90 requests submitted to your Executive Secretary and to the Secretariat and 10 major intergovernmental meetings. For the first time also, a decision was adopted by Parties coming with money with offers to host and including the International Treaty. I pay tribute to all the international organizations that decided also to be big.

But this is also the first time to my knowledge that any United Nations meeting has closed with the mayor of the host city attending all the closing ceremony. Lady Mayor Dieckman said that "what's very special about Bonn is the paradox that it is so small and at the same time so big". I will say also that Bonn also can achieve and create great women. So, for this, we have a token of recognition, Madame Lady Mayor, for your participation and for all what the city and the people of Bonn have done for this historic meeting, and you have truly demonstrated that you are indeed the host of the United Nations city for sustainable development. It is fitting to celebrate your great achievements as a woman as this meeting has adopted, for the first time in the history any multilateral environment agreement, a plan of action and gender and biodiversity.

It is also the first time that a meeting of women ministers of the environment was held. It is also fitting that this has taken place while, for the first time, two women were at the helm of the two working groups of the Conference of the Parties. I would like to pay tribute to Ms. Maria Mbengashe from South

Africa and Ms. Chaweewan Hutachareern from Thailand for their outstanding charisma and leadership. We have also a token of recognition for your magnificent contribution to the success of this meeting. Another woman was at the forefront of the German delegation—Ms. Astrid Klug, Parliamentary State Secretary in the Ministry of the Environment. The Secretariat would like to pay tribute to you for your charming leadership and invaluable contribution to the success of the Bonn Biodiversity Summit.

We want also to pay tribute to another woman who made a distinct contribution to the success of this meeting. Ms Nicola Breier, the focal point of Germany to Convention, you have been great. We would like to offer you the SCBD award in recognition of your tireless efforts for the last two years to make this meeting a success.

Behind every great woman, we always find a great man. Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, we want also to offer you the SCBD award for your engagement and personal commitment to make the Bonn Biodiversity Summit a unique event in the life of the Convention. The success of our meeting would not have been possible without the engagement and personal commitment of our President, Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, Minister of the Environment of Germany. Please accept, Sir, the SCBD award for what you have achieved and what you want to achieve during Germany presidency and you can always count on your secretariat in the fulfilment during the forthcoming two years of your heavy responsibility. It is my duty to pay tribute to your staff, my colleagues in the Secretariat for their tireless effort to rise to the challenge of serving you and serving the 5,000 participants and all stakeholders at this exceptional meeting.

On 16 May, the Secretariat's soccer team a match against your BMU team. We lost. I would like to invite you to a re-match on 16 May next year in Montreal at the headquarters of the Secretariat.

I would also wish all participants a very safe journey back home.

Thank you for your kind attention.