



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 CLOSURE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

Bonn, 30 May 2008

Mr. President,

Emmanuel Kant said that you should act so that your principle of action might safely be made a law for the whole world.

Minister Gabriel, you have steered the historical Bonn Biodiversity Summit in such a manner that your action is now a law for future meetings of the Conference of the Parties, and I must say for all future meetings of other sisters convention and maybe for all the United Nations meetings on sustainable development

As Goethe is reputed to have said, “Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it.” Your vision was bold; your stewardship has genius. The result of today’s historic high-level segment has power, and the implementation of what we call the Bonn Biodiversity Compact has magic in it. The participation of Heads of State and Government, as well as more than 100 ministers at the first-ever Global Ministerial Biodiversity Forum is magic.

I want to thank all the Ministers that have accepted to attend this historic meeting demonstrating their engagement for the fulfilment of the Johannesburg biodiversity promise to our children. I want to thank the Ministers that have accepted the join forces with the President and be engaged in promoting the Bonn Biodiversity Compact. I would like to pay tribute to the Ministers today attending the closing ceremony to share the dream of our President and accepting to join forces to assist him in meeting the overwhelming challenge of discharging his heavy responsibility. Indeed, the translation of the Bonn Biodiversity Compact for life on Earth into reality requires the engagement of all of us, and it requires your personal engagement. Accepting today to wear these pins with the German flag and CBD logo, which were distributed to all of you this morning, is accepting to join forces with the President and your Convention, the Convention on Biodiversity.

I want to thank the agencies and partners that have shared your boldness by joining forces with your Secretariat and signing here in Bonn agreements pursuant to the spirit and letter of the One UN programme of the United Nations Secretary-General. Thank you to the GEF, UNDP, IUCN and Bioersivity. I want to thank also the Governments of French, Germany and Japan that have agreed to second staff to the Secretariat to allow the implementation of your vision.

There is a saying in our headquarters in Nairobi: “If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” Translating the Bonn Biodiversity Compact is a long and challenging journey. It calls for a global partnership for all the stakeholders. This applies also to the Japan-EU Biodiversity Compact as reflected in their 17th Summit held in April this year. I applaud, Minister, the Kobe Biodiversity call for action as the first plan of action to be adopted by the G8 following the historical initiative of the Heiligendamm Summit by Germany and the Potsdam 2010 Initiative. We



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United Nations
Environment Programme

413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800
Montreal, QC H2Y 1N9, Canada

Tel : +1 514 288 2220
Fax : +1 514 288 6588

<http://www.cbd.int>
secretariat@cbd.int

applaud therefore the partnership between COP9 and COP10 Presidency in accordance with the spirit and the level of universal Global Naturallianz born here in Bonn.

We assure you, Minister, that in the Secretariat we will do whatever we can until Nagoya in October, not to disappoint the children of Nagoya, the children of Japan and the children of the world, who will wait for us in Nagoya with this sign, meaning "I love you".

Arigato, Your Excellency Ichiro Kamoshita.

The paradox of Bonn been told by its Lady Mayor, Bärbel Dieckman: it is so small but it can achieve big things. Minister Gabriel, Excellency, the Bonn Biodiversity Summit maybe has been small in terms of number but it has achieved big things.

On behalf of all the participants at this historic meeting, we would like to convey to you, to the Chancellor of Germany and, through her, to all the people of Germany, to all members of your Government and to all the citizens of Germany, and to you, in particular. I think that the decision that is going to be adopted this afternoon by the Parties speaks volumes. Vielen Dank!