



Secretariat of the
Convention on Biological Diversity



STATEMENT BY AHMED DJOGHLAF

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

at the

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH HEADS OF AGENCIES

at the

MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

of the

**SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Madam Chair,
Distinguished colleagues

I would like to echo the introductory comments made by Mr. Sha Zukang Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs about the innovations introduced by you, Madam Chair, during this session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

These interactive dialogues with heads of agencies are part of those innovations. I would therefore like to pay tribute to you for enhancing the efforts of the Commission. I would also like to congratulate the new Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, my friend Tariq Banuri, for his outstanding contribution in assisting you and the Member States in their efforts to increase the effectiveness of this vital organ in the sustainable development agenda.

To respond to the question posed by the Minister from Namibia, on how the United Nations system will assist in following up on the five messages arising from the policy recommendations of the Commission, I would like to echo the statement made by the head of the delegation of Japan, Vice-Minister Kazuhiko Takemoto. He rightly stated that the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, in 2010, is the relevant forum for the biodiversity family to follow up on the work of the Commission.

Regarding the first message on adaptation to climate change, I am pleased to inform you of the recent meetings of the Convention's Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Biodiversity and Climate Change in London and Helsinki, as well as a third meeting to be held in the near future in Nairobi. The contribution of the Convention on Biological Diversity arising from these meetings will be submitted to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Copenhagen in December of this year. It will also be considered by the Nagoya biodiversity meeting.

Regarding the policy recommendation related to the development of a green economy, I am pleased to inform you that the adoption in Nagoya of an International Regime on Access and Benefit Sharing will make a significant contribution to the effective implementation of the Convention and the advancement of the sustainable development agenda. In Nagoya, the Conference of the Parties will also adopt a post-2010 biodiversity target, thus contributing to the promotion of sustainable development.

Regarding the third contribution of the Commission, on issues relating to biodiversity for development and poverty alleviation, I am pleased to inform you that representatives of bilateral and multilateral agencies are meeting in Montreal with the view of mainstreaming biodiversity into the development cooperation agenda. In addition, the celebration in 2010 of the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May 2010 will have as its theme "Biodiversity for development and poverty alleviation".

To respond to your question, Madam Chair, as you are aware a main obstacle to the implementation of the policy recommendations is a lack of awareness about the gravity and impact of biodiversity loss on the capacity of the planet to continue providing us with goods and services. Accordingly, the General Assembly has proclaimed 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity. The celebration will start in Berlin, and will be followed by a high-level meeting in Paris at UNESCO headquarters. In September, a high-level meeting will be held during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly to discuss biodiversity, the first time in history such an event as taken place. The celebrations will close in Ishikawa Prefecture in Japan in December, an event that will coincide with the launch of the 2011 International Year on Forests.

To respond to the question from a number of ministers on how the United Nations system can work to implement the policy recommendations of the Commission, I am pleased to inform you that under the lead of the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Achim Steiner, the Environmental Management Group has decided to engage all United Nations systems for its contribution to the 2010 biodiversity target and the post-2010 biodiversity target. I am also pleased to announce that tomorrow the executive secretaries of the three Rio conventions will be meeting to discuss collaboration in the preparations for ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat

Desertification (UNCCD) in Buenos Aires in late-September, the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and our own meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Nagoya. This will be followed by a meeting of the three executive secretaries and the new director of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) to discuss the relationship between forests, climate change, biodiversity, and land degradation.

Madam Chair, just as 2009 has been declared by the Secretary-General as the International Year of Climate Change, 2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity. We at the Secretariat therefore look forward to working with you and Tariq for the celebration of this important year on the occasion of the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Thank you for your kind attention.