



STATEMENT

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“What Can the Japan Civil Society Network for CBD do?”

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE MEETING OF THE JAPAN CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK
FOR CBD**

ONE YEAR BEFORE CBD/COP10

11 OCTOBER 2009

Nagoya, JAPAN



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ONE NATURE - ONE WORLD - OUR FUTURE
COP 9 MOP 4 Bonn Germany 2008

Good afternoon,

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe once stated, “What is not started today is never finished tomorrow”. To finish the work at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, a meeting was convened in Bonn, 100 days before by the German network of civil society. To finish the work at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, we are here today in Nagoya not 100 but 372 days before.

In fact, to finish the work of tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the preparations started 870 days before the meeting in Nagoya. In June 2008, on the occasion of the Commemorative Kick-Off Symposium for the preparation of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, I was privileged to have a meeting with the representatives of Japanese civil society, and I was very much impressed by what I heard and saw at that time. I would like to pay tribute to the representatives of Japanese civil society and applaud the decision taken early this year to establish the Japan Civil Society Network for the Convention on Biological Diversity. I would also like to tell you how pleased I am to be with you this afternoon to discuss—one year in advance—how civil-society representatives, including non-governmental organizations, the business and scientific communities, women, youth and children, together with the Parties to the Convention and your secretariat, can ensure the emergence here in Nagoya at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the dawn of new era in the relationship of human beings living in harmony with nature. How together we can launch a new era through the establishment of a “Universal Alliance for Life on Earth”. How together we can ensure that one year from now Aichi/Nagoya will enter into the history of biodiversity as Kyoto did twelve years ago with respect to climate change. How together we can ensure that next generation will be proud to say, “Yes, I was at COP10”, as our generation today is proud to say, “Yes, I was at the Rio Summit in 1992”.

There is an African saying that: “If you have a short journey, go alone; if you have a long journey go with a group”. Meeting the unprecedented loss of biodiversity compounded by climate change is a long journey that requires the full engagement of the human species, united as a human family with its diversity and cemented by a common goal for a shared and green future. Meeting the biodiversity challenges requires the full engagement of all Governments without exception.

Here in Nagoya in June 2008, at the Commemorative Kick-Off Symposium for the preparation of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, more than 1,000 participants listened to the COP-10 song entitled “Our Lives in the Web of Life”, performed by 191 Nagoya children representing, at that time, the number of Parties to the Convention. Meanwhile we have been joined by Iraq, Somalia has deposited its instrument, and Andorra will join suit very soon. I sincerely hope that “Our Lives in the Web of Life” will be performed on 19 October 2010 at the opening of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties by 195 children representing the newly universal Convention on Biological Diversity, which will also include the United States of America as a Party. In this respect, I applaud the decision announced yesterday to award the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize to Mr Barack Obama, the President of the United State of America for his contribution to peace and security. Indeed, the unprecedented loss of biological diversity compounded by climate change is a direct threat to international peace and the security of the world.

What can the Japan Civil Society Network for CBD do? It can send a strong message to the United States of America that the Japanese civil society would welcome the participation of the United States of America at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties as the 195th Party to the Convention. After all, how a family can celebrate its reunion without an important part of itself?

The year 2010 will coincide with the celebration for the first time in the history of the United Nations of the International Year of Biodiversity. **What can the Japan Civil Society Network for CBD do?** It can continue to raise public awareness among all segments of society and be an active partner in *The Green Wave* campaign aimed at engaging the children of today and the citizens of tomorrow in the battle for life on Earth.

The International Year of Biodiversity will also coincide, also for the first time in the history of the United Nations, with a one-day high-level meeting of Heads of State and Government exclusively devoted to biodiversity to be held in New York on 20 September 2010 during the sixty-fifth session of the

United Nations General Assembly. **What can the Japan Civil Society Network for CBD do?** It can send the Aichi/Nagoya Call for Action to the Heads of State and Government attending the New York Biodiversity Summit urging them to provide leadership and vision to the Aichi/Nagoya 2020/2050 biodiversity target and be fully engaged as the leaders of the world for its successful implementation.

After the Heiligendamm, Hokkaido/Toyako and L'Aquila summits, the G8 leaders of the world and their partners will be meeting in Canada two months before the New York Summit **What can the Japan Civil Society Network for CBD do?** It can ensure that biodiversity is discussed as priority issue together with climate change.

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be the melting pot of all stakeholders, including Parties, mayors and local authorities, parliamentarians, NGOs, indigenous and local communities, the business and scientific communities, women, youth, children, and citizens. **What can the Japan Civil Society Network for CBD do?** It can organize on 16-17 October 2010 a Civil Society Forum addressing the main agenda items of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties with a view of presenting to the Parties the views and wisdom of the civil society so as to ensure that voice of the people is heard and integrated into the Aichi/Nagoya Compact. It can invite, encourage and facilitate the participation of your partners from Africa, Asia and Latin America. It can organize the Aichi/Nagoya Planet Diversity on Sunday, 18 October, with the participation of families and their children.

What can the Japan Civil Society Network for CBD do during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties? It can follow closely the negotiation of the Aichi/Nagoya Compact to ensure its adoption on 29 October of the International Year of Biodiversity, together with as the new Strategic Plan of the Convention, which will integrate the Aichi/Nagoya 2020/2050 biodiversity target. **What can the Japan Civil Society Network for CBD do?** It can promote the idea of an International Decade on Biodiversity to be declared in December 2010 at the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly, which will coincide with the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention.

What can the Japan Civil Society Network for CBD do during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties? It can play a leadership role during the implementation of the Aichi/Nagoya compact.

What can the Japan Civil Society Network for CBD do after the International Year of Biodiversity? It can contribute to the celebration of the 2011 International Year of Forests, which will be launched in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture in December 2010.

What can the Japan Civil Society Network for CBD do for the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Convention? 2012 will coincide with the twentieth anniversary of the opening for signature in Rio de Janeiro of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity. It will also coincide with the decision to launch the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. 2012 will also coincide with the convening of the Summit of Rio+20. **What can the Japan Civil Society Network for CBD do?** It can promote the initiative to convene in 2012 a special extraordinary one-day meeting of the conferences of the parties to the three Rio conventions for the adoption of a joint work programme on climate change and biodiversity.

What can the Japan Civil Society Network for CBD do after the Japanese Presidency of the Conference of the Parties? It can encourage future presidents of the Conference of the Parties to emulate your example and establish the World Civil Society Network for CBD.

What can the Japan Civil Society Network for CBD do? It can establish twinning arrangements with the Canadian Network for the Environment, which comprises 600 non-governmental organizations and which will be acting very soon also as the Friends of the Convention on Life on Earth.

As Ryunosuke Satoro said, "Individually we are one drop. Together we are an ocean."

I thank you for your kind attention.