



## **STATEMENT**

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**THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE**

**KOBE BIODIVERSITY DIALOGUE IN 2009**

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

The thirteenth-century Japanese Zen master Dogen said that enlightenment is intimacy with all things. Eight hundred years later, there is no better way of expressing the wisdom inherent in understanding and cherishing the world around us—and in particular the richness of life on the planet.

Japanese people and society have long understood humanity's connection with nature. Local agricultural communities and villages have been at the heart of this country's land management techniques throughout much of its history, carefully preserving the forests that provided them with much of their livelihood. Over time, the practice of *satoyama* has been applied to larger areas of forests, grasslands, streams and ponds, dry rice fields and rice paddies, and so has become a much praised model for the sustainable use of our biological resources. The same principle of living in harmony with nature is found in many ancient cultures and societies throughout the world.

Sadly, the wisdom embodied by the *satoyama*-type practices is being lost. It is not therefore surprising that, because of human short-sightedness, species are currently going extinct at up to 1,000 times the natural background rate. In the year 2000 only about 73 per cent of the world's original biodiversity levels remained. As of 2008, 38 per cent of all species examined are under threat of extinction. Even among species not threatened with extinction, the past 20–40 years have seen significant declines in population or range size in most groups monitored. The overall result is that approximately 60 per cent of examined ecosystem services have been degraded worldwide in the last 50 years. If current loss rates continue, it is expected that an area of 1.3 billion hectares worldwide – about 1.5 times the United States – will completely lose its original biodiversity levels by 2050.

The “Carta di Siracusa”, or the Syracuse Charter, adopted by the G8+11 in April this year acknowledged the importance of addressing biodiversity as an important part of the G8 dialogues and building on the 2010 Potsdam initiative and the “Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity”. In adopting the L'Aquila Declaration, the G8 leaders decided to encourage the engagement of civil society, the business community and other relevant stakeholders for biodiversity and endorsed the Syracuse Charter on biodiversity as an effective mean to promote a long-term strategy to enhance the conservation of biodiversity and underlined the necessity to establish a vision and an ambitious and achievable common framework for biodiversity beyond 2010 making use of synergies between climate change and biodiversity policies

One year before, here in Kobe, on 26 May 2008, the G8 Ministers of the Environment in adopting the “Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity”, stressed that “biodiversity and climate change are closely intertwined and that efforts are urgently needed to consider these important linkages in addressing climate change and biodiversity”.

Climate change must be tackled synergistically with biodiversity loss, as it is projected to be one of the leading causes of biodiversity loss in the years to come. Approximately 10 per cent of species assessed so far have an increasingly high risk of extinction for every 1°C rise in global mean surface temperature. This trend is expected to

hold true up to at least a 5°C increase, which would result in about 50 per cent of species facing increased risks of extinction. Recently, observed changes in the climate have produced alterations in species distribution and population size, timing of reproduction or migration events, and an increased frequency of pest and disease outbreaks. Climate change has also been implicated in widespread coral bleaching, wetland salinization and salt-water intrusion, the expansion of arid and semi-arid lands at the expense of grasslands and acacia, poleward and upward shifts in habitats, replacement of tropical forests with savannah, and the shifting of desert dunes.

Moreover, just as climate change contributes to biodiversity loss, biodiversity loss also contributes to climate change. Deforestation is currently estimated to be responsible for 20 per cent of annual human-induced carbon dioxide emissions, as forests account for as much as 80 per cent of the total above-ground terrestrial carbon. Peatlands, which cover only 3 per cent of the world's terrestrial surface, store 30 per cent of the carbon contained in both terrestrial vegetation and soils. Hence, as forest and peatland loss continues, a much greater proportion of global carbon ends up in the atmosphere and not in terrestrial biomass. Likewise, intensive agricultural practices that destroy ground cover and increase soil erosion decrease the retention time of carbon in the soil.

Kofi Annan, the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the Global Humanitarian Forum recently released a landmark report detailing the human costs of climate change. The report includes an examination of the negative effects of climate change on many local ecosystems and the people that directly depend on them

In his opening address to the G8 Ministers of the Environment in Kobe, Professor Kiyoshi Kurokawa of the National Institute of Policy Studies reminded the audience that Japan had hosted the 2000 G8 summit, where African heads of state were invited for the first time ever and the Global Fund to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis was subsequently created. He then asked whether Japan, as the second largest economy in the world, would again demonstrate leadership in Kobe.

The answer at the closure of the meeting: was a resounding: Yes. Japan provided leadership and guided by example. The “Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity”, which reiterated the importance of the target of substantially reducing biodiversity loss by 2010 and called for more action in a number of key areas, namely: sustainable use of biodiversity, protected areas, private-sector engagement, and strengthening scientific capabilities for monitoring biodiversity. The international community owes a debt to the city of Kobe for successfully hosting such a timely and important event.

Japan provided leadership and lead by example. For the first time since the Rambouillet summit in 1972, a “Call for Action for Biodiversity” was adopted in Kobe, but, more importantly, Japan also and at the same time announced four commitments to implement the agreement reached in Kobe by the leaders of the world with their partners. Japan announced the establishment of the “Kobe Biodiversity Dialogue” aimed at convening “a global forum in order to promote information exchange, a dialogue, discussion and collaboration among various stakeholders including governments, the business sector, NGOs, researcher and international organization”.

Here we are gathered today at the “Kobe Biodiversity Dialogue in 2009”. This global biodiversity forum is taking place fifteen months after the announcement of the

Japan commitments to the Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity and just three days after the COP10 festival held in Aichi/Nagoya with more than 18,000 participants and two days after the unveiling in Tokyo by Mr. Sakihito Ozawa, the Minister of Environment of Japan of the “Aichi/Nagoya MOP5/COP10 official logo”.

Here we are today gathered in Kobe at the “Kobe Biodiversity Dialogue in 2009”, which is taking place less than one year before the historic New York Summit on Biodiversity. On 20 September 2010, and for the first time in its history, the United Nations General Assembly will convene a high-level meeting exclusively devoted to biodiversity with the participation of Head of State and Government representing the 192 members of the United Nations. For the first time in the history of the environment movement, all the leaders of the world or their representatives will have biodiversity as the sole item on their agenda. This historic and extraordinary biodiversity summit will take place just 29 days before the opening of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. Here we are therefore today at the “Kobe Biodiversity Dialogue in 2009”, just 368 days before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which will enter into history as the “Aichi/Nagoya Biodiversity Summit”.

Let me therefore pay tribute to the people and Government of Japan for their unique contribution in making biodiversity relevant to the people of the world. I would like to ask you to join me in giving a big hand to our host by saying simply but sincerely and warmly: *Arigato gozaimasu*, Japan, *Arigato gozaimasu* Tajima-San, Senior Vice Minister on the Environment; *Arigato gozaimasu* Toshizo Ido-San, Governor of Hyogo.

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be “PHENOMENAL” to borrow the words of Ms Franca D’Amico, one of the longest-serving members of the staff of the Secretariat in Montreal. It will coincide with the celebration of the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity, which will include a meeting of Heads of State and Government in New York. The official launch of this unique event aimed at raising public awareness and engaging the people of the world in the fight to protect life on Earth, will take place in Berlin on 11 January 2010 under the leadership of Ms Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany, the host of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

It will be followed on 21-22 January by a high-level event, organized by UNESCO, with the participation of Heads of State and Government to unveil the universal exhibit of the International Year of Biodiversity, which will tour the world and be presented at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The International Year will be celebrated all over the world, and the exhibit will be presented to all related international events, including and not exclusively in: Curitiba, Madrid, London, Trondheim, Phnom Pen, Kuala Lumpur, Bali, Windhoek, Abidjan, Nairobi, Brasilia, New York, Montreal, Kazakhstan, Antananarivo and, of course, Aichi/Nagoya.

Opened in Berlin by the President of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the International Year of Biodiversity will be closed on 11-12 December 2010 by the President of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan. This will not be a mere closing ceremony, it will also coincide with the launch of the new 2011 International Year of Forests to be organized in partnership with the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Food and Agriculture

Organization of the United Nations (FAO). As we all know 80 per cent of the biodiversity of the world is located in tropical forests. As we all know, 13 million hectares of forest are disappearing every year. As we all know, deforestation accounts for 20 per cent of all carbon dioxide emitted worldwide. Ishikawa/Kanazawa may enter into history as the birth place of the operationalization of the concept of synergies among the three Rio conventions, namely, those on climate change, biodiversity and desertification

At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties will have before the most complete and exhaustive scientific report on the interlinkages between climate change and biodiversity, prepared by an expert group convened by the Convention Secretariat at the request of the Parties, which will be presented at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change, in Copenhagen in December and adopted in Nagoya by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Aichi/Nagoya will plant the seeds of what we hope will be the first ever joint work programme between the three Rio convention to be finalized , under Japan presidency and submitted, I hope, to the Rio+20 Summit to be held in June 2012

The Aichi Nagoya Protocol on Liability and Redress under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety will be adopted at the fifth meeting of the Parties to the Convention serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. The Aichi/Nagoya International Regime on Access and Benefit which will operationalize the third objective of the Convention will be also adopted as a major contribution to fighting poverty and promoting sustainable development. For the first time in the history of the some 500 environmental treaties in force, a multilateral environment agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, will enter into partnership with the coalition of 130 developing countries assembled under the grouping of the G77 and China. The first G77 Biodiversity Forum will be held on 18 October 2010, and the Conference of the Parties will have before it a multi-year programme of action on South-South cooperation for the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention.

At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties will also have before it a draft joint work programme between UNESCO and CBD on “Biological Diversity and Cultural Diversity”. An international congress with the participation of head of state will take place in July 2010 in Montreal just after the G8 Summit in Canada. COP10 will also have before it a plan of action on cities and biodiversity associated with a new Urban Biodiversity Index.

At its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties will also adopt the Aichi Nagoya 2020 and 2050 biodiversity target integrated into a new strategic plan of the convention for 2011-2020.

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will be PHENOMENAL not for the content of its expected outputs but also and most importantly by its inclusive and all encompassing approach based and inspired by the tradition and culture of the host country and guided by the “Japanese Way”. The post-2010 biodiversity target will not follow a top down approach. It will be designed, prepared, adopted and implemented by all stakeholders.

I would like to thank Japan for its contribution to its leadership as demonstrated by its preliminary contribution for the post-2010 period submitted last month in

Strömstad, Sweden, at the most recent meeting of Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and expected to be finalized by the end of this year well before the Asian workshop on the post-2010 period, to be held in Tokyo in December.

Next month in Montreal, a joint meeting of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties and the Bureau of the scientific body of the Convention, the second of its kind, will be convened to discuss the first draft of the revised Strategic Plan. Strong consideration will be given to formulating a quantitative biodiversity target, a concrete goal that stakeholders can strive to achieve. Such a goal should make it easier to communicate why it is important to preserve biodiversity and how to go about doing it. The Plan will also establish a sound scientific basis for these targets: the post-2010 targets need to be commensurate with the challenge we face, and based both on the best science available and the experience of countries in implementing the Convention to date. The third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook—peer-reviewed under the Convention on Biological Diversity, its scientific bodies and the scientific community at large—will provide an overview of the relevant science and experience base, as well as a projection of future changes in biodiversity levels and possible response measures.

The new Strategic Plan will integrate the post-2010 target. It will draw upon the fourth national reports submitted by Parties, and we hope to have a 100 per cent rate of submission before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It will also build on the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook. The draft new strategic plan will be submitted to regional consultations to be held in Tokyo, Nairobi and Panama. It will be made available to the meeting of the European Union in Madrid in January and serve as a basis of discussion at the global conference on 2010 to be held in London and organized jointly by the United Kingdom and Brazil. It will be submitted to the sixth Trondheim International Conference on Biodiversity and for review by the scientific organ and the implementation organ of the Convention when they will be meeting in Nairobi in May 2010. The GBO-3 will be launched in Nairobi on 10 May but also simultaneously in Tokyo, Berlin, London, Paris, Rome, New York, Washington and in all cities hosting regional offices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The Nairobi meetings will coincide with *The Green Wave* campaign, aimed at engaging, on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity, the children of today, the citizens and the leaders of tomorrow in the fight to protect life on Earth and be the actor of their own future. The International Day for Biological Diversity will be celebrated on 22 May 2010 under the theme “Biodiversity for development and poverty alleviation” as a contribution to the 10-year review by Heads of State and Government of the Millennium Development Goals, including goal 7 on environmental sustainability which since 2006 includes “the 2010 biodiversity target”.

Three hundred million people worldwide, the majority poor, are estimated to depend substantially on forest biodiversity, including non-wood forest products, for their survival and livelihood. And yet about 13 million hectares of the world’s forests are lost due to deforestation each year. One billion people depend on fish as their sole or main source of animal protein, while fish provide more than 2.6 billion people with at least 20 per cent of their animal protein intake. And yet, about half of marine stocks worldwide were fully exploited in 2005, while another one quarter was overexploited, depleted or recovering from depletion. Coral reefs provide food and livelihood for most

of the estimated 30 million small-scale fishers in the developing world. And yet, 60 per cent of coral reefs could be lost by 2030 through fishing damage, pollution, disease, invasive alien species and coral bleaching. We cannot tackle poverty without also addressing biodiversity loss

Biodiversity needs to be mainstream into the development sector as well as into the cooperation priorities. The First Forum of Bilateral and Multilateral Donors Agencies will be held in Aichi/Nagoya on 26 October 2010 just prior to the high-level segment. The Second Private Biodiversity Donor Forum will be also held the same day and I would like to pay tribute to Okada-San the Head of Aeon Company for his contribution in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment of Japan for initiating last week the First Japan Award on Biodiversity. The Japan International Biodiversity Award will be announced at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Recognizing the economic dividends of protecting biodiversity and the need to engage the private sector, a meeting between the chief executive officers of companies and ministers was convened at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Curitiba in 2006. The 4,000 participants to the Curitiba meeting adopted a strong decision on the need to engage the business communities in the implementation of the three objectives of the convention. The 6,000 participants in Bonn at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties adopted a framework for priority actions to promote business engagement, which focuses on the continued development and promotion of the business case for biodiversity and the dissemination of best practice. In Bonn, the First International Business Initiative for the Protection of Biodiversity was launched, bringing together a group of 34 companies, including Japanese companies. Last July, a Brazilian project called “LIFE certification” was launched in Curitiba, which aims to both quantify and officially recognize actions by companies related to biodiversity conservation.

The Nippon Keidanren Declaration on Biodiversity is a direct response to the call addressed by the 191 Parties to the Convention to the business community to join forces for meeting the unprecedented biodiversity challenges. It is also a timely response to the Government of Japan’s promotion of Corporate Social Responsibility activities and sustainable supply chains as reflected in the third National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity. The Guidelines on Business and Biodiversity prepared by the Government of Japan in response to the decisions adopted by the Parties to the Convention in Curitiba and Bonn demonstrate that a strong and vibrant public-private partnership is essential for meeting the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity—the Convention for Life on Earth.

Last month, a meeting was convened in Montreal with the participation of the “Triple Presidency” of the Conference of the Parties (Brazil, Germany and Japan) with the participation of Canada as a host of Secretariat and the Netherlands pursuant to the four year Letter of Intent signed with the Secretariat. The meeting was followed by an inter-agency consultation aimed at preparing the meeting in early December this year in Jakarta aimed at preparing the Aichi/Nagoya Business and Biodiversity to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its tenth meeting. I am very happy to note that the Japanese business community will be represented to share its unique experience. A dialogue between chief executive officers and ministers will be held at the meeting of the

Conference of the Parties and Messe Nagoya 2010 will be devoted to biodiversity and elevated to an international technological fair on business and biodiversity.

Tadao Ando a famous Japanese architect said, “When you look at Japanese traditional architecture, you have to look at Japanese culture and its relationship with nature. You can actually live in a harmonious, close contact with nature - this very unique to Japan. I sincerely hope the Japanese Business and Biodiversity Initiative will allow historians to state that, “When you look at the Japanese biodiversity technologies you have to look at Japanese culture and its relation with nature.”

I am sure that you will all agree with me that the response to the question raised by Professor Kiyoshi Kurokawa at the beginning of the 2008 G8 Environment Ministers in Kobe: can Japan again demonstrate leadership as the second largest economy in the world? The answer is undoubtedly: YES and Yes. Japan has, is and will provide critical guidance at this important moment in history; yes Japan will provide leadership before, during and after the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and Aichi/ Nagoya will be remembered as the place where stopping biodiversity loss became, under Japan leadership, an international mandate, a universal mandate with the participation of hopefully 195 Parties, including the United States of America, and their partners. .

Let me leave you with another quote from Dogen: “Something you want badly enough can always be gained. No matter how fierce the enemy...or how carefully guarded the treasure, there is always a means to the goal for the earnest seeker.” I think the international community will realize precisely that in Aichi/Nagoya. Coming together under Japan’s leadership, we will develop a comprehensive strategy for ensuring that our children and grandchildren can benefit as we do from the diversity of life on Earth. *Arigato gozaimasu*

Thank you for you kind attention.