



STATEMENT

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

TO THE

**SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE UNITED NATIONS AT ITS SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION**

New York, 3 November 2009

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COP 10 / MOP 5

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to present Secretary General's report, document A/64/202, which is before you.

Sir Nicholas Stern, author of the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change, recently stated that the most important conference of humankind since the Second World War is the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate, to be held in Copenhagen in December this year. I would like to add "as well as the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Aichi-Nagoya in October 2010".

+At present, the international community is focussed on the outcome expected from the Copenhagen Summit. But the fact is that the post-Kyoto regime will remain unfulfilled without the Aichi-Nagoya Biodiversity Compact. If climate change is a problem, biodiversity is part of the solution. Forests, wetlands, peatlands, and oceans are part of the climate-change solution. Healthy terrestrial and marine ecosystems are essential to the health of the atmosphere. However, the loss of biodiversity is being compounded by climate change. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), more than 30 per cent of all known species may disappear before the end of the century owing to climate change, with a resultant compounding of the climate-change challenges. At its Copenhagen meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will have before it the most comprehensive scientific report on the interrelation between climate change and biodiversity. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will consider this report at its tenth meeting, and the climate-change challenges are expected to be integrated in the post-2010 biodiversity target to be set at that meeting.

At the 2002 Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, world leaders agreed to reduce substantially the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. Your meeting today is taking place in less than 59 days before 2010. The third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, to be issued early next year, is expected to clearly demonstrate that the international community has failed to fulfil the Johannesburg commitment. The report is based on 86 national reports submitted by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and I would take this opportunity to urge all the remaining 107 Parties that have not done so to submit their fourth national report as soon as possible

Biodiversity continues to be lost at unprecedented rate, thus threatening the capacity of the planet to continue providing its good and services. The current rate of extinction is estimated to be 1,000 times higher than the natural rate. We may be on the brink of the sixth mass global extinction of species in the history of the world, and the first to be generated by human beings alone. If current loss rates continue, it is expected that an area of 1.3 billion hectares worldwide – about 1.5 times the size of the United States of America – will completely lose its original biodiversity levels by 2050. Halting and reversing the current loss of biodiversity is vital. Business as usual is no longer an option and next year's Aichi-Nagoya meeting will not be just another meeting of the Parties but the beginning of a new era of effective implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Last month, in his recent address at the University of Copenhagen, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon pointed out that: "If there is one lesson that we must learn (...) it is this: we share one planet, one small blue speck in space. As people, as nations, as a species: we sink or swim together." In it in this spirit that, a couple of days later, the logo of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was launched in Tokyo by the Minister of the Environment of Japan, Mr. Sakihito Ozawa, with the slogan "Living in Harmony, into the Future". It is also in the same spirit that the logo of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, under the theme "Biodiversity is life, biodiversity is our life", was launched in Nagoya, at the ceremony held a year before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties with the participation of more than 20,000 people.

The Aichi-Nagoya Biodiversity Summit is expected to adopt a 2050 vision and a 2020 biodiversity target incorporated into a new Strategic Plan of the Convention covering the period 2011-2020. The plan will include not only targets and sub-targets but also means of implementation and

monitoring and an evaluation mechanism. The new Strategic Plan will be also a key instrument for the implementation of the international regime on access and benefit sharing to be also adopted at the Nagoya meeting. The new Strategic Plan will also integrate the Multi Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation to be also adopted in Nagoya at the first G-77 Biodiversity Forum and submitted to the Conference of the Parties.

The Aichi-Nagoya Compact will be adopted with the full participation and engagement of all stakeholders. The Nagoya Biodiversity Summit will be preceded on 20 September 2010 by a high-level meeting exclusively devoted to biodiversity at the sixty-fifth session of this Assembly with the participation of Heads of State and Government.

The Aichi-Nagoya Biodiversity Summit will be preceded by a City Summit on Biodiversity with the expected participation of 300 mayors and aimed at establishing a partnership between governments and local authorities. In early January, the second meeting on cities and biodiversity in Curitiba, Brazil, will be convened for the preparation of the plan on action associated with the Urban Biodiversity Index, which was developed in Singapore earlier this year. A meeting on parliamentarians and biodiversity will be also convened to consider the report of the Commission established early this year by Globe International on "land use and ecosystem services". A technological fair will be organized as well as a dialogue between ministers and chief executive officers of companies. Later this month a meeting on business and biodiversity will be convened in Jakarta to prepare the Nagoya dialogue with the business community. A meeting of the heads of bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies will also be convened, as will a summit on youth as well as women. Next week, in Montreal the Aichi-Nagoya e-conference will be launched, and the summary of this innovative forum will be submitted to the expected 10,000 participants in Aichi-Nagoya.

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties will coincide with the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity. The official launch of this major event will take place on 11 January in Berlin, under the chairmanship of Ms. Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany, as the current President of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. On 8 January, Brazil, as President of the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, will organize an international event. A high-level event will take place on 21-22 January in Paris at UNESCO, where a new travelling exhibition on biodiversity will be launched.

As mentioned above, the General Assembly its sixty-fifth session will mark this event on 20th September 2010 at the level of Heads of State and Government. The closing ceremony will take place on 11-12 December in Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan. This will not be a mere closing ceremony, it will also coincide with the launch of the 2011 International Year of Forests to be organized in partnership with the secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests. This will be followed in 2012 with the Rio+20, the twentieth anniversary of the 1992 Rio Conference on Environment and Development. 2012 I am confident will be the year of the three Rio Conventions.

There is an African proverb that says, "If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." It is only with your support, the support of all member states, of all stakeholders that we will be able to address the unprecedented challenge of biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation, if we are to achieve the objectives of the three Rio Conventions. 2012 is the appropriate time to go together.

Thank you for your kind attention.