



**Statement by Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the
Convention on Biological Diversity**

On the occasion of the

**THIRD BUSINESS AND THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY CHALLENGE CONFERENCE
30 November 2009, Jakarta, Indonesia**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour to welcome all of you here in Jakarta at this meeting on Business and Biodiversity and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge. Addressing the unprecedented loss of biodiversity compounded by climate change requires urgent engagement of all stakeholders and, in particular, the business community as a whole.

It is therefore not a coincidence that this meeting is being held in Indonesia, which has 12 per cent of the mammal species of the world, a total second only to Brazil, and 17 per cent of the total number of species of birds, the fifth highest in the world. This country of 11,000 islands is one of the 17 megadiverse countries in the world but is not immune to the global trends by which human activities are creating the greatest wave of species extinction since the natural disaster that wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

Indonesia is also in a region where economic growth has been very high in recent times and projected to continue at those levels in future reflecting the challenge we face for our ecosystems.

As an eminent Indonesian, Professor Emil Salim stated very appropriately: “Before we open up an area for development, we must sit down and analyse the capacity of the land and other resources we really have. Why? Because it is the ecosystem, not the economic system, that should be the main consideration.”

I would like therefore to convey to Prof. Muhammad Hatta, the Minister of the Environment of Indonesia, my deep gratitude for his leadership and ask him to convey to the people and Government of Indonesia our sincere appreciation for promoting the biodiversity agenda and their continued support as the host the historic second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in December 1995 which gave birth to the Jakarta Mandate on marine and coastal biodiversity. I have every reason to believe that by co-hosting with the Secretariat this third meeting on business and biodiversity, Indonesia will contribute to giving birth to a Jakarta mandate on business and biodiversity .

The first meeting on business and biodiversity was held in London in January 2005, followed by a second in São Paulo, Brazil, in November 2005. I would like to put on record my appreciation to the Governments of the United Kingdom and Brazil for their contribution in



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shaping and inspiring the CBD Business and Biodiversity Initiative (CBB). The outcomes of these meetings led to the adoption of the first decision on business and biodiversity by the 4,000 participants attending the eight meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Curitiba, Brazil, in March 2006. Thanks to the leadership of Brazil, a breakfast meeting between Chief Executive Officers and Ministers was convened at the margins of the ministerial segment. The first dialogue between business and policy makers was born in Curitiba.

Today's conference may be the third, but it is in fact the first to have so many partners representing the rich and diverse multi-stakeholder group present here. This is the first conference to be held together with the UNEP 2009 Business and Industry Global Dialogue, thus establishing a new partnership between the CBD and UNEP processes. It is also the first conference organized by four major partners. First, our host Indonesia. The second partner is the Government of Netherlands, which single-handedly has been funding the programme of engaging the business sector in the implementation of the objectives of the Convention. Thank you, Mr. Peter Bos for your continued support under the unique four-year agreement between the Netherlands and the Secretariat. My gratitude also goes also to the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the International Union for Conservation of Nature for joining forces with the Secretariat.

It is also the first conference to be prepared by a steering committee, which comprised 20 members representing companies, associations, Governments and non-governmental organizations from around the world. They provided invaluable time and expertise in putting together the well thought-out agenda before you, which that carefully balances the needs of the Parties to the Convention and the multi-stakeholders. The members of the steering committee should feel pleased this morning for their hard work. Their agenda has attracted more than 200 participants representing a large range of economic sectors, including mining, energy, agro-foods, fisheries, construction, forestry, tourism, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, fashion, finance and port authorities. The interest the conference generated has been overwhelming, and we are particularly delighted to see a significant number of participants from our host country and other representatives of the business community from all the regions of developing countries.

It is for all these reason that this conference is unique. It brings business together with Governments and non-governmental organizations, as well as their international partners. It is therefore the right forum to agree on ways and means to enhance the engagement of the business community in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention.

This conference is also unique because it will offer the first opportunity for consulting the business community on the ongoing preparation of the 2050 biodiversity vision and the 2020 biodiversity target to be included in the new Strategic Plan of the Convention for the period 2011-2020, to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention when it meets in Nagoya in October 2010.

It is also unique as it will offer the first opportunity to consult business representatives on the ongoing negotiation on the draft protocol on access and benefit sharing. For this initiative, I am extremely grateful to the United Nations University and to the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing, Mr. Fernando Casas and Mr. Tim Hodges.

This conference is also unique as it has been prepared by a meeting of the Triple Presidency of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (Brazil, Germany and Japan), held in Montreal on 14 September. This meeting, in which Canada as the host of the Secretariat and

the Netherlands also participated, was followed by an inter-agency meeting. The meeting was convened to coordinate the business and biodiversity initiative of Brazil as host of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, namely the Life Initiative, the German leadership initiative and initiative on business and biodiversity of the host of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The draft Strategy to Advance the Business and Biodiversity Agenda post-2010 is before you. I look forward to the establishment very soon of the Quadruple Presidency with the participation of India as host of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in New Delhi in October 2012

Your meeting offers therefore a unique opportunity to shape a new partnership between the 193 Parties, and hopefully very soon the 195 Parties, to the Convention and the business sector for meeting the unprecedented challenges of the loss of biodiversity compounded by climate change. The results of your meeting will be submitted to a high-level dialogue between Chief Executive Officers and Ministers to be held at the Aichi-Nagoya Biodiversity Summit on 28 October 2010. This event will coincide with the Messe Nagoya, the first technological fair on biodiversity. I would like to pay tribute to the Japanese people and Government for their commitment to making the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties a unique event in the life of the Convention and for the guidelines on business and biodiversity developed by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan in close cooperation with the business community. My gratitude also goes to the Nippon Keidanren for their active engagement in the First Kobe Dialogue on Biodiversity and setting the example of the Nippon Keidanren Declaration on Biodiversity, which was signed by some 2,000 companies.

I sincerely hope that your meeting will be able to agree on the elements of a Jakarta Charter on Business and Biodiversity to be submitted for adoption at the tenth meeting of Conference of the Parties and will be open for signature to all companies in the world the adhere to its principles. The Jakarta Charter will be a major contribution to the United Nations Global Compact and be the basis of the Davos of tomorrow. As stated by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in Davos, "We stand at a crossroad. It is important that we realize we have a choice. We can choose short-sighted unilateralism and business as usual. Or we can grasp global cooperation and partnership on a scale never before seen."

This is a challenge to all the participants here, and we have a matching opportunity in terms of the International Year of Biodiversity, which will start in less than 31 days from now and will culminate with a meeting Heads of State and Government during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly in New York in September 2010. The Jakarta Charter on Business and Biodiversity will be therefore a major contribution to the celebration of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity. The Jakarta Charter will be your response to the Secretary-General's call in Davos in which he stated: "I ask you to lead by example. Educate your customers, suppliers and workers and share your technologies with the poor-it's the one and only path for a sustainable future with the prospect of prosperity for all."

I thank you for your kind attention and I wish you a very successful meeting.
