



STATEMENT

ON BEHALF OF MR AHMED DJOGHLAF

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

ON THE OCCASION OF

**AD HOC OPEN-ENDED INFORMAL WORKING GROUP TO
STUDY ISSUES RELATING TO THE CONSERVATION AND
SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
BEYOND AREAS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION**

New York, 1 February 2010

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Ladies and gentlemen,

The CBD Secretariat is pleased to update the Working Group on the scientific and technical activities undertaken by the Convention on Biological Diversity for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction since the last meeting of the Working Group in April 2009.

At its ninth meeting held from 19 to 30 May 2008 in Bonn, Germany, the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in its decision IX/20, adopted scientific criteria (annex I to the decision) for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs) in need of protection, in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats, and the scientific guidance (annex II to the decision) for designing representative networks of marine protected areas. The Conference of the Parties also took note of the four initial steps to be considered in the development of representative networks of marine protected areas (annex III to the same decision).

In this decision, the Conference of the Parties urged Parties and invited other Governments and relevant organizations to apply, as appropriate, the scientific criteria, the scientific guidance, and initial steps, with a view to assist the relevant processes within the General Assembly and implement conservation and management measures, including the establishment of representative networks of marine protected areas in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties also invited Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, including in the context of this Working Group, to cooperate in further developing scientific and technical guidance for the implementation of environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments for activities and processes under their jurisdiction and control which may have significant adverse impacts on marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, taking into consideration the work of Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Maritime Organization, and other relevant organizations, with a view to ensuring such activities are regulated in such a way that they do not compromise ecosystem integrity.

In order to assist countries in their implementation of this decision and as called for by the Parties, the CBD Secretariat convened two expert workshops: one on “Scientific and Technical Guidance on the Use of Biogeographic Classification Systems and Identification of Marine Areas beyond National Jurisdiction in Need of Protection”, which was held in Ottawa from 29 September to 2 October 2009, and the other on “Scientific and Technical Aspects relevant to Environmental Impact Assessment in Marine Areas beyond National Jurisdiction”, which was held in Manila from 18 to 20 November 2009.

The Ottawa workshop developed, among other outputs: (i) scientific guidance on the identification of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction that meet the CBD scientific criteria for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (annex I to decision IX/20); and (ii) scientific guidance on the use and further development of biogeographic classification systems. The workshop report (UNEP/CBD/EW-BCS&IMA/1/2) is available at CBD website.

The Manila workshop provided scientific and technical considerations for the application to marine areas beyond national jurisdiction of existing CBD voluntary guidelines on biodiversity-inclusive environmental impact assessment and CBD draft guidance on

biodiversity-inclusive strategic environmental assessment, which were adopted by Parties in decision VIII/28. The workshop report (UNEP/CBD/EW-EIAMA/2) is available at CBD website.

The results of these workshops will be submitted to the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), scheduled for May 2010, for its consideration prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties.

The details of these two workshop results will be presented at the lunch time side-events to be held on Tuesday and Thursday of this week, which are co-organized by Canada, Germany, Philippines, the CBD Secretariat, IUCN, Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative and Census of Marine Life. We wish to invite all of you to these side-events to share the efforts made by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and their partners toward achieving our common goal of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Finally, the Convention Secretariat would like to invite all of you to join hands with us in celebrating the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). In particular, we are happy to inform you that the international celebration of IYB will culminate with a special meeting of the General Assembly, with the participation of Heads of State and Government, to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 20 September 2010. The Convention Secretariat therefore wishes to encourage you to closely collaborate with it in order to make the most of this valuable opportunity to bring the challenges of marine biodiversity conservation to the attention of high-level policy makers.
