



## STATEMENT

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**ON THE OCCASION OF**

**THE 'GREEN ECONOMY' ROUNDTABLE AT THE ELEVENTH  
SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME GOVERNING  
COUNCIL/GLOBAL MINISTERIAL FORUM**

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*Please check against delivery*



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Life in harmony, into the future  
いのちの共生を、未来へ  
COP 10 / MOP 5

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Addressing the General Assembly of the United Nations at its sixty-second session, the President of Indonesia, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, stated:

“[L]et us always keep an eye on the requirements of development. That means we must not lose sight of the imperative to conquer poverty as a basic problem of the human condition. In Indonesia, we have a national dream, which is expressed in our 1945 Constitution. We dream of enjoying for ourselves and our future generation the blessings of peace, freedom, justice and prosperity – and seeing to it that the same blessings are enjoyed by the rest of humankind. Poverty can kill that dream.”

This message was reiterated yesterday by the President in his opening statement, but with an enhanced sense of urgency.

The fact is that poverty is killing the dreams of 1.2 billion people, half of them here in Asia. Poverty may very soon kill the dreams of humanity. The unprecedented loss of biodiversity compounded by climate change is undermining the capacity of the planet to continue providing its goods and services. A green economy requires the sustainable use of our natural capital and, therefore, the full implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity—the convention on life on Earth. It will require another relation with Nature.

It is estimated that three hundred million people worldwide, the majority poor, 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 single or main source of animal protein, while fish provide more than 2.6 billion people with at least 20 per cent of their average per capita animal protein intake. And yet about half of marine stocks worldwide were fully exploited in 2005, while another one-quarter were overexploited, depleted or recovering from depletion.

Coral reefs provide food and livelihoods 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 damage caused by fishing, pollution, disease, invasive alien species and coral bleaching.

Emil Salim rightly said, “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.”

This should be the guiding principle of mankind.

The report on the state of food and agriculture in the world, issued last week by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, highlights our common challenges. To feed a world population of nine billion in 2050, food production needs to grow by 70 per cent. To this end, 120 million additional productive land will be required. During the same period, global annual meat production will need to double. However, meat production occupies already 80% of the agricultural land of our planet and requires 8 per cent of the world water resources. Meeting this challenge will require a paradigm shift in our relationship with nature, inspired and guided by the traditional wisdom of our ancestors such as the principles of *Tri Hita Karana* of our host, the

people of Bali. The Governor of Bali has explained to us these three sources of happiness. We have heard Professor Wangari Maathai referring to the *Mottainai* principle, and we heard the Vice-Minister of the Environment of Japan speaking about *Satoyama* and *Sato-umi*, the traditional land- and seascape management practices of the people of Japan. There is indeed a strong link between development, culture and values.

A recent study in the United Kingdom found that 6.7 million tonnes of edible food are thrown out each year, representing one third of all food bought, or more than US\$ 17 billion. A study carried out by the United States Department of Agriculture found that 27 per cent of edible food is wasted, which amounts to an average of 215 kg per year for each American household. In Toronto, Canada, a single family household discards 275 kg of food per year. Over one third of fruits and vegetables in North America don't even make it to the supermarket shelves because they are not pretty enough. In the United States, the amount of water lost from food waste is equivalent of 40 trillion litres. In Japan, unpacked food represents 30 per cent of household waste, representing around 19 million tonnes. Between 20 to 50 million tonnes of electronic waste are produced. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), waste production increased by 40 per cent in the last 10 years. The amount of waste may double by 2020. In fifteen years, it is expected that the world will generate two billion tonnes of waste. This model of a throw-away society is also associated with the unprecedented environmental impact.

As the Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu stated, "If you do not change direction, you may end up where you are heading". It is to change direction that the United Nations General Assembly declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity with the slogan: " Biodiversity is life; biodiversity is OUR life" This worldwide and system-wide celebration is not an end by itself but a powerful tool at the service of a noble cause. To change the course of action, a high-level meeting of Heads of State and Government exclusively devoted to biodiversity on biodiversity is hopefully to be convened on 22 September 2010 in New York in conjunction with the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly. This historic summit will shape the post-2010 biodiversity strategy. The 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention is expected to be adopted at the Aichi-Nagoya Biodiversity Summit, with not only a new target but also means of implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

It was Gro Harlem Brundtland who once said, "You cannot tackle hunger, disease, and poverty unless you can also provide people with a healthy ecosystem in which their economies can grow." It is for this reason that the world community will celebrate the International Day for Biological Diversity under the theme "biodiversity for development and poverty alleviation". The same theme will be debated by the Heads of State and Government attending the New York Summit on Biodiversity. The Aichi-Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-Sharing will be adopted in October this year at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This new legal instrument under the convention on life on Earth will be remembered for generations to come as the beginning of a new era of living in harmony into the future, which is the slogan of the Nagoya meetings.

Living in harmony with nature requires also the active engagement of the business community as partner and as part of the solution. The recent report issued by The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study estimates that the environmental damage of the world's 3,000 biggest companies is US\$ 2.2 trillion.

A third global meeting on business and biodiversity took place this past December here in Indonesia. More than 200 companies, non-governmental organizations and governments from all over the world gathered in Jakarta recognizing that biodiversity-based business can be more profitable than other economic activities, and that biodiversity already forms the basis of many economic sectors. As Gusti M. Hatta, State Environment Minister of Indonesia, stated on the occasion: “The reduction of biodiversity would lead to scarcity of biological raw material for business.”

Guided by this wisdom, the conference resulted in two major outputs: the adoption of the Jakarta Charter on Business and Biodiversity, and comments for a Strategy to Advance the 2020 Business and Biodiversity Agenda. These two documents will be discussed at the high-level dialogue between chief executive officers and ministers attending the high-level segment of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. *Keidanren*, the Japanese Business Federation, has launched a business and biodiversity initiative, and the Japanese Ministry of the Environment has prepared guidelines on the topic. Overall, a truly international effort is under way to bring the business community into the biodiversity family.

The great Japanese poet Matsuo Basho said “There is nothing you can see that is not a flower; there is nothing you can think that is not the moon.” And indeed, humans are intimately connected with nature. Human are part of nature and not apart of it.

As Ryunosuke Satoro said, “Individually we are one drop. Together we are an ocean.” Indeed guided and inspired by the wisdom and tradition of the Japanese people and the *Satoyama* and *Sato-umi* principles of living in harmony with nature, the Nagoya-Aichi Biodiversity Summit will be a beginning of new era of living in harmony into the future.

I thank you for your kind attention