



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**



**STATEMENT BY**

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
LAUNCH BY DISCOVERY CHANNEL OF A  
SERIES ON BIODIVERSITY**

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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,

It is a pleasure to address you this evening. On behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the 193 governments who are members of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity that we love to call the Convention on Life on Earth, I want to thank Discovery Communications for joining us in celebrating the International Year of Biodiversity and also congratulate Discovery for 25 years of leadership in bringing stories of the natural world into our lives.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Biodiversity is life. Biodiversity is our life. This slogan of the International Year of Biodiversity captures the challenges that we human beings are faced with as well as our crucial and interrelated role in the web of life of the Earth.

First, Biodiversity is Life. It is the humour and drama of the lives of the millions upon millions of species that live across the world. It is the splendour of the forests, oceans and mountain systems of our worlds, in which we all live and thrive. The work of Discovery and the filmmakers who are bringing you the series “Life” have captured this.

Biodiversity is our life. We humans are a part of nature, not apart from it. Just like the other species on this planet, we rely on biodiversity for our food, our shelter, our health and all aspects of our well-being. I am struck by how the stories of the animal and plant kingdom told in the series “Life” can help viewers make this connection and help our children prepare for actively shaping their future.

The series “Life” is a tremendous achievement that can help us overcome these gaps in understanding. The United Nations is excited to join up with Discovery Communications to inspire people to discover the biodiversity that surrounds them.

We need action now, in this International Year of Biodiversity. At the end of the year, Heads of State and world leaders will meet twice. First, in New York, at the United Nations General Assembly where they will, for the first time ever, devote an entire day to the question of biodiversity. Then, at the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit in Japan in October, governments will meet again to set the targets in our fight to save life on earth for the decades to come.

These leaders need to be inspired to act by the citizens of the world. Citizens will be inspired to demand action only if they are informed. It is the work of Discovery that can start this process.

So in this regard, we at the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Life on Earth are delighted and honoured to count Discovery Communications as our official partner in raising awareness and achieving the objectives of the International Year of Biodiversity so as to protect life...our life.

I thank you for your kind attention.

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