



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**



2010 International Year of Biodiversity

STATEMENT

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

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL
TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND
FLORA (CITES)**

Doha, 15 March 2010

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

Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Addressing the last meeting of your Conference of the Parties, your Secretary-General, my good friend Willem Wijnstekers, stated, and I quote, “We are from different continents, from different cultures, with different attitudes, but we have one purpose: to conserve nature.” This message underpins this year’s celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity, under the slogan biodiversity is life, biodiversity is OUR life.

This celebration is not an end by itself but rather an instrument at the service of the noble cause of protecting life on Earth. Launched in Berlin, under the leadership of Dr. Angela Merkel, the Chancellor of Germany, the celebration is gaining momentum. It was launched through internationally organized events in Brazil, Paris, London, Nagoya, Madrid, New York, Beijing, New Delhi and Tokyo. The message is crystal clear: biodiversity is the foundation of life on Earth and this foundation is under serious threat.

The third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, to be issued on 10 May, will demonstrate, based on the 110 national reports received by the Secretariat to date, that the 2010 biodiversity target will not be met. It will also show the way ahead for the post-2010 biodiversity target to be adopted in October this year in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, in Japan at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This post-2010 target will be submitted to the Heads of State and Government attending the high-level meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly to be held in New York in September this year. The Nagoya Summit will adopt the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention with associated means of implementation and a monitoring and evaluation mechanism. The 193 Parties will be requested to translate the new Strategic Plan into national biodiversity strategies and action plans before the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in India in October 2012.

The new Strategic Plan of the Convention provides a unique opportunity to strengthen the implementation of CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level. CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity share the same objective and their implementation mutually enhances each other.

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in 2002, where world Heads of State and Government agreed to the 2010 biodiversity target, the head of the Qatar delegation, Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohammed Bin Saud Al-Thani, spoke eloquently of, and I quote, “the necessity of providing appropriate ground in society to protect [the environment] and preserve natural life with the objective of bringing about real change in human and institutional behaviour”.

Your meeting today in Doha and the Nagoya summit in October provide the Parties unique opportunities to promote through joint action among these two legal instruments real change in human and institutional behaviour. This will be the best contribution to life and the best contribution to the celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity, as biodiversity after all is OUR life.

Thank you for your kind attention.
