



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**



STATEMENT BY

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON
PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES (CPM5)**

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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,

We humans depend on biodiversity. This is particularly obvious in the case of agriculture and agricultural ecosystems. The farms, orchards, and productive landscapes of our world are the cradle of a variety of plants which are not merely where we get our food, but also the source of important genetic traits needed to improve yields, food quality, resistance to pests and diseases and the ability to adapt to climate change. Only by conserving and sustainably using the plant genetic resources of our planet, can we ensure functioning of ecosystems.

As you may know, the United Nations declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. It is a celebration of life on earth and of the value of biodiversity for human well-being. The loss of biodiversity poses a serious threat to agriculture, forestry and fishery. All of these genetic resources and their habitats and ecosystems are related to the livelihoods of millions of people. Conserving biodiversity and using it wisely and sustainably is a global imperative. The world is invited to take action in 2010 to safeguard the variety of life on earth—biodiversity.

To-date, increasing global trade and expanding commercial use of aquatic and terrestrial living organisms elevated the number of opportunities for introduction of invasive alien species, with serious consequences. In 2008, at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 9), the Conference of the Parties invited the International Plant Protection Convention to expand, within its mandate, its actual coverage of invasive alien species which impact on biodiversity, including in aquatic environments. Invasive alien species in aquatic ecosystems have had mixed consequences for water purification. By altering the food web, one of the aquatic plant pests, “golden apple snail” (*Pomacea canaliculata*) has transformed Southeast Asia’s wetlands from clear water purification system to a turbid, algae-dominated state. Invasive alien species is also known to create economic loss in agriculture and the environment. In the case-study in the Philippines economic loss of rice production caused by “golden apple snail” was 12 -18 million US dollars, annually. In the United States, economic losses caused by aquatic weeds was estimated over one hundred million US dollars, which is 10 times higher than the total cost associated with “Gypsy moth” and almost equivalent to the control cost of “Dutch elm disease” in the United States. One study showed that estimated environmental cost of all invasive alien species may be over 1.4 trillion US dollars, which was nearly 5 per cent of global GDP in the year of study in 2001.

Pursuant to the decision of COP 9, the two Secretariats of the IPPC and the CBD have agreed to collaborate on the number of items within their mandates including (i) standard setting and normative design of relevant organisations to address the issues related to invasive alien species; and (ii) sharing the opportunities for capacity development in developing countries to prevent, control and manage invasive alien species in collaboration with National Plant Protection Organisations and the CBD National Focal Points. The best practices of preventing invasive alien species submitted from Parties indicated that cross-sectoral collaboration at national and regional levels is one of the most important elements of successful safeguarding of biodiversity. In light of this, the two Secretariats will continue to collaborate to tackle the issue of invasive alien species including plant pests.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity recognized that living modified organisms may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological

diversity. They negotiated the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to prevent these impacts. Living modified organisms that are considered pests to plants are also within the mandate of the IPPC.

The CBD Secretariat is very pleased to collaborate with IPPC on matters related to living modified organisms. We look forward to continued cooperation as we undertake activities in areas such as risk analysis, risk assessment and risk management; and the handling, transport, packaging and identification of living modified organisms.

As you are aware, 2010 is a special year for the community of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Parties to the Convention, in 2002 agreed to the 2010 biodiversity target, to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by the year 2010. This was reaffirmed by Heads of States at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. The third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, to be issued on 10 May 2010, will demonstrate, based on the 110 national reports received by the Secretariat to-date, that the 2010 biodiversity target will not be met. It clearly indicates that the persistence and intensification of environmental pressures, including invasive alien species, provide more evidence that the rate of its loss is not being significantly reduced.

This edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook 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 (COP 10). This post-2010 target will be submitted to the Heads of State and government attending the high-level meeting on biodiversity 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 (COP 11), to be held in India in October 2012.

The new Strategic Plan of the CBD provides a unique opportunity to strengthen the implementation of the International Plant Protection Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level. As we share objectives – the preservation of life on Earth – our implementation enhances our joint efforts.

Your meeting today in Rome, and the Nagoya summit in October, provide the Parties unique and excellent opportunities to promote through joint action. In this International Year of Biodiversity, I look forward to our work for life on Earth.

Thank you for your kind attention.
