



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**



**STATEMENT BY**

**MR. AHMED DJOGHLAF  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**AT THE OCCASION OF THE**

**THIRD MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE  
REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (WGRI 3)**

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Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity  
United Nations Environment Programme  
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada  
Tel : +1 514 288 2220, Fax : +1 514 288 6588  
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



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いのちの共生を、未来へ  
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Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Eight years ago, after the adoption of the 2010 biodiversity target, and six years after the establishment of your committee in Kuala Lumpur, here we are assembled today for your third meeting. Your meeting today hosted in Nairobi is of special significance. It is your first meeting in Africa and the first meeting at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Let me therefore request the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Angela Cropper, to convey our gratitude to Mr. Achim Steiner, for the financial contribution of UNEP to host this meeting.

Your meeting is taking place the day after the celebrations of the International Day for Biological Diversity throughout the world, including here in Nairobi. I would like therefore to pay tribute to Ms. Cropper and her colleagues for hosting here in Nairobi the main celebrations of this unique event. Our gratitude goes also to our Kenyan partners, including the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), the National Museums of Kenya (NMK), our friends of the Karura Forest, the Huruma Community, as well as the 193 Kenyan school children who participated in the celebration. This would not have been possible without the support of key Parties and the support of the German authorities. I want to thank the German Presidency, and through them the German Embassy in Nairobi, as well as the BMZ and GTZ for the organization of the Biodiversity Action Day in more than 60 countries. The results of this great initiative will be shown in a video later this week.

This great event coincided also with the enhanced campaign of *The Green Wave* initiative under the motto "One School, One Tree, One Gift to Nature". 947 schools and groups marked *The Green Wave* on Saturday, 22 May. Baba Dioum, the famous Senegalese poet and environmentalist has said, "In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught". This is indeed what *The Green Wave* is all about.

This meeting also coincides with the celebrations of the International Year of Biodiversity. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the 85 countries that have submitted their plan of action as well as our various partners, for their contribution to the celebrations of the International Year, which will culminate on 22 September with the high-level meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity.

Your committee, established in Kuala Lumpur in 2004, is an effective process for evaluation, reporting and reviewing of The Hague Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Five years after the first meeting in Montreal and eight years after adopting the 2010 biodiversity target in Johannesburg, we are meeting today to wrap-up this major phase of the review process. In order to assist you, please find before you the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3) in the six official languages of the United Nations, which was launched in all UN countries earlier this month. The message of GBO-3 is crystal clear: we continue to drive species extinct at up to 1,000 times the natural background rate.

Individually, we are unable to meet the 2010 targets of achieving a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss. This is a clear message emerging from the 120 fourth national reports submitted by Parties until now. To avoid these consequences, the meeting has also before it the elements of the Aichi-Nagoya new Strategic Plan for 2011-2020. You also have the recommendation of the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical

and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-14) on goals and targets of the Strategic Plan. Here, I would like to pay tribute to Mr. Spencer Thomas, the members of the SBSTTA Bureau, and the 770 participants of the last two-week historic SBSTTA meeting for their outstanding scientific contribution, to ensure that the new Strategic Plan will be based on science. The document before you is the result of two years of intensive and all-encompassing consultations, which included 50 submissions by Parties and partners, 16 global workshops, as well as input from the Aichi-Nagoya International E-Conference on the post-2010 Biodiversity Target (ANIEC 2010). I would like to pay tribute to Germany for having jump-started the consultations in March 2009, in Bonn, and to Japan for having provided the framework of this new Strategic Plan.

Indeed, this document has been guided by the Japanese Strategic Plan, in particular the section on related means of implementation. I would therefore like to thank Japan for establishing the Japan Biodiversity Fund to support the implementation of the new Aichi-Nagoya Strategic Plan. I would also like to express my gratitude to Mrs. Monique Barbut, the Chair and CEO of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), for having recommended the establishment of a special window on biodiversity. The 5th replenishment was concluded successfully early this month and will enable Parties to implement the Biodiversity Strategic Plan. I would also like to sincerely convey my gratitude to GEF donors for having increased the biodiversity allocation during the GEF-5 to US\$ 1.2 billion. Brazil alone doubled its pledge to the GEF-5 from SDR 4 million to SDR 8 million (US\$ 12.26 million).

The draft Aichi-Nagoya Strategic Plan to be adopted at the closure of your meeting will be before the 192 heads of States and Governments who will gather on 22 September for the historical New York biodiversity summit. This will be a unique opportunity for leaders of the world to shape the post-2010 biodiversity strategy and most importantly to indentify means of implementation of the new biodiversity vision.

Indeed, the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, stated “business as usual is no more an option for humankind”. Business as usual for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, for it partners, and for the Parties is no more an option.

I have no doubt that a new global universal alliance will be born in Nagoya and will include a new protocol on access and benefit-sharing.

As the founding father of our great host country, Jomo Kenyatta said: “Our children may learn about heroes of the past. Our task is to make ourselves architects of the future.” This week in Nairobi under the able leadership of Jochen Flasbarth you have the unique chance to be the architect of our future.

Thank you for your attention.

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