



STATEMENT

BY MR AHMED DJOGLAF

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

ON THE OCCASION OF

THE OSLO CLIMATE AND FOREST CONFERENCE

**27 MAY 2010
OSLO, NORWAY**

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,
Dear colleagues,

I would like to convey my warm greetings to everyone gathered in Oslo today for the Oslo Climate and Forest Conference. I would especially like to congratulate Prime Minister Stoltenberg and the government of Norway for their global leadership on biodiversity and climate change issues, as demonstrated by this timely event.

The world's forests are facing immense pressures and we are in a race against time to find ways of conserving and sustainably using forest biodiversity for the benefit of present and future generations. The efforts for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries – REDD – open new opportunities for generating benefits from intact forests, so our societies can make better use of these immense ecological and economic assets without further degrading or destroying them. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) thus notes with appreciation the purpose of the Oslo Climate and Forest Conference to establish an interim REDD-plus Partnership.

The CBD is currently strengthening its work on the conservation and sustainable use of forests under our revised Strategic Plan, and at the same time, we are aware that REDD issues are being discussed under the UNFCCC and discussions outside of the UNFCCC process must not pre-empt the decisions of our sister Rio Convention. Therefore, let me take this opportunity to propose an advisory mechanism to involve the CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD secretariats in the interim partnership arrangement for REDD-plus. The advisory mechanism would ensure guidance on the processes of the Rio Conventions and facilitate the integration of achievements under the REDD-plus Partnership arrangement into a future climate agreement under the UNFCCC and, in due course, as appropriate, under the CBD and UNCCD.

At its ninth meeting in Bonn, Germany, in 2008, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD requested the Executive Secretary to support Parties' efforts to address REDD, in collaboration with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests. In the same decision the Parties also call attention to the opportunities provided by REDD, and point at associated risks and challenges for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, as well as for the livelihoods of indigenous and local communities. Since these decisions were adopted the CBD Secretariat has increasingly worked with partners to share the relevant experience our Parties have in reducing deforestation and forest degradation since the adoption of the CBD forest biodiversity programme of work in 2002 and the programme of work on protected areas in 2004, including experiences in creating the enabling environment and capacity for the conservation and sustainable management of forests, and on forest biodiversity monitoring and reporting.

With regards to scientific and technical considerations of REDD co-benefits, the Conference of the Parties also established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change, whose goal it was to provide biodiversity-related information to the UNFCCC process. The Expert Group has produced a report with detailed recommendations on REDD biodiversity and indigenous benefits, and submitted the results to the UNFCCC at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen, in December 2009. In this spirit, the Secretariat of the CBD is actively seeking to strengthen synergies between the three Rio Conventions and other organizations relevant for REDD.

With regard to the specific biodiversity and ecosystem benefits of a possible REDD mechanism, and of REDD-plus pilot and demonstration activities, the CBD Secretariat stands ready to further work with the UN REDD Programme, the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, and other partners, and with national governments, to ensure that REDD does not run counter to the objectives of the CBD, but rather supports the implementation of the Convention. We are particularly appreciative of the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and REDD-plus investment program approved for the fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) aiming at funding the continuous generation of multiple benefits from forests, including biodiversity, carbon emissions mitigation, and local livelihoods. This is a very good example of how synergies can be achieved through the GEF by virtue of its shared financial mandate across the three Rio Conventions.

Another relevant activity in this context is the CBD's LifeWeb Initiative, which provides a partnership platform to strengthen and facilitate the financing of systems of protected areas and ecological networks in developing countries, with complimentary benefits for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Ladies and gentlemen, biodiversity underpins forest resilience, which in turn underpins the permanence of forest carbon stocks. Biodiversity is also the basis of most ecosystem services. The long-term success of REDD will therefore depend on its benefits for biodiversity, ecosystem services, and indigenous and local communities. The Oslo Climate and Forest Conference is about forging partnership and creating synergies to ensure this long-term success. I regret that I am unable to be with you, but I am pleased to inform you that a senior member of my staff, Mr. Jo Mulongoy, will be with you for the duration of the meeting, and I look forward to learning about the results, including options for enhanced synergies between the Rio Conventions. In this spirit, I wish you a successful meeting.

Thank you for your kind attention.