

**STATEMENT**

**BY MR AHMED DJOGLAF**

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF**

**THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL  
PARTNERSHIP FOR THE SATOYAMA INITIATIVE**

**19 OCTOBER 2010  
NAGOYA, JAPAN**

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japan's first Nobel Laureate Hideki Yukawa said that "Nature creates curved lines while humans create straight lines." During this 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, our task has been to start thinking more like Nature, moulding ourselves to her curves to so as to preserve the future of life on Earth.

This task is substantial. In May the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook showed that species worldwide continue to disappear at up to 1,000 times the natural background rate of extinction. The report further warns that without concerted action massive further loss of biodiversity is projected to occur before the end of the century and that ecosystems are approaching tipping points beyond which they will be irreversibly degraded, with dire consequences for human wellbeing.

We need a new vision of how we humans can live sustainably at the heart of the dynamic ecological systems that support us – a vision, of course, that the Japanese have long had in their ancient land-management practice of satoyama. As we have just seen in the video on the satoyama, rural agricultural communities and villages in Japan have a centuries-old history of carefully managing the forests, grasslands, streams and ponds upon which their livelihood depends. In this time of environmental crisis, the international community has much to learn from such an enlightened culture.

That is why two years ago in Kobe, G8 Environment Ministers issued a call to action and put forward satoyama as a model of how humans should live in and interact with nature. The Satoyama initiative gained impetus at the Convention's ninth meeting in Bonn, Germany, and at international satoyama forums held subsequently. Here we are today in Nagoya, launching the International Satoyama Partnership. I would like to thank the Government of Japan for the hard work they have put into this initiative, which will help local communities around the world to live sustainably and in harmony with nature.

We at the Convention are proud to support this important partnership. It will go a long way toward helping us implement the 2011-2020 biodiversity strategy that will emerge from COP10, which is being finalized with the participation of all stakeholders, including youth, local and indigenous authorities, parliamentarians and the private sector. The new biodiversity strategy will emphasize that biodiversity loss can no longer be treated as a stand-alone problem, since it is linked with issues such as poverty, climate change, water scarcity, growth in demand, development and international conflict. It will also include a 2050 biodiversity vision and a 2020 biodiversity target and sub-targets, and contains a means of implementation and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

Moreover, drawing inspiration from Satoyama, it will highlight that humans are not outside agents attempting to preserve distant ecosystems, but are deeply dependent on biodiversity for everything that makes life as we know it possible. As the slogan of this 2010 International Year of Biodiversity reminds us: Biodiversity is life...biodiversity is OUR life.

Thank you for your kind attention.