

Statement by Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary Convention on Biological Diversity
on the occasion of the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
Second Committee
New York, 1 November 2010

Good morning ladies and gentlemen

Early morning on Saturday, in Nagoya Japan, history was on the move. The Nagoya Biodiversity Compact was adopted. The Nagoya Biodiversity Summit attended by the 18 650 accredited participants representing the 193 Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and their partners fulfilled its mandate. Indeed, the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit was truly historic. It achieved its three inter-linked strategic objectives. On Saturday Nagoya entered history as the birth place of a new era of living in harmony with nature. Nagoya will be forever associated with the establishment of a global alliance to protect life on earth. History will also recall that this would not have been possible without the outstanding leadership and commitment of the government and people of Japan. I would like to put on record my heartfelt appreciation for the unprecedented leadership shown by the Government and people of Japan. If Kyoto entered history as the city where the climate accord was born, Nagoya will be remembered as the city where the biodiversity accord was born. Arigato Gaizaimas Japan.

18 years after its signature in Rio de Janeiro, the third objective of the United Nations Convention on Life on earth was operationalized. The Nagoya Protocol on **Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization** was adopted in early hours of Saturday with the participation of more than 122 ministers. The Nagoya protocol will be remembered as one of the most important legal instrument in the history of the environmental movement. It is indeed a unique instrument to achieve the sustainable development agenda and fulfill the Millennium Development goals and in particular alleviating poverty. It established the foundation of a new international economic and ecological order based on respect of nature in its diversity, including human beings. A road map from Nagoya to India was also adopted. The early entry into force in 2012 of this innovative mechanism is part of the agreement. The financial support pledged by CEO of the Global Environment Facility has elevated the financial mechanism of the convention into an agile and responsive institution at the service of biodiversity agenda. To this end, the signing ceremony of this historical instrument will be held here in New York on 2 February 2011 with the participation of Heads of State and in conjunction with the official launch of the International year on Forests. On 7th March 2011,

the signing ceremony of the Kuala- Lumpur –Nagoya supplementary protocol to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety on liability and redress will take place also in New York in conjunction with the preparatory meeting of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Never in the history of the environmental movement , two legal instruments have been adopted in the same city and within a couple of days.

The Nagoya Protocol is a major instrument for achieving the “Aichi Target”, adopted also in the early hours of Saturday. The new strategic plan on biodiversity for 2011 – 2020 envisages five strategic goals that address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, reduce the pressures on biodiversity, safeguard biodiversity at all levels, enhance the benefits provided by biodiversity, and provide for capacity-building To this end 20 ambitious headline targets were adopted including the target of achieving 17 per cent of terrestrial and 10 per cent of marine and coastal zones in protected.

Promoting joint activities between the three Rio Convention is central to the successful implementation of the new strategic plan. The importance of better integrating the biodiversity agenda with that of climate change and land degradation was covered in the dynamic programme of events and activities at the Ecosystems Pavilion (ecosystemspavilion.org), organized by the secretariat of the three Rio Convention and 19 supportive partners. More than 400 events attended by 1000 participants were convened. The Pavilion will move to Cancun in December and in October 2011 to Choising for the UNCCD COP and in Rio in 2012.

As recommended by the Secretary General, Mr Ban Ki moon, the new strategic plan was adopted as the overarching global coordinated framework on biodiversity of the whole biodiversity family. The heads of agencies, including the heads of the biodiversity related conventions as well as the heads of NGOs attending the meeting endorsed this recommendation. Therefore the whole United Nations system with the support of the civil society family will assist the 193 parties in translating the Aichi targets into national biodiversity and action plans within two years.

A mid term evaluation through the submission of the fifth national report will be held in 2015. The proposal of the Prime Minister of Republic of Yemen, speaking on behalf of the G77 and China, at the high level segment to convene a high level Event of the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly with the full engagement of the heads of state and government was welcomed by the other heads of state and government as well as the 130 ministers attending the Ministerial segment of the Nagoya summit. .

To support the Aichi targets, the representatives of 650 municipalities including 200 mayors adopted a multi years plan on action on cities and biodiversity which was submitted and endorsed by the Nagoya summit thus establishing for the first time a partnership between local and municipal authorities and government representatives. An urban biodiversity index prepared with the support of Singapore and tested in 34 cities was also endorsed. In adopting the Nagoya Declaration on Parliamentarians and Biodiversity, the 122 legislators from 60 countries agreed to endorse the Aichi targets and support the early entry into force of the Nagoya protocol on ABD.

To support the implementation of the Aichi targets, the Group of 77 and China under the leadership of the Republic of Yemen adopted the multi year plan of action on South South

cooperation on biodiversity and development. This also a landmark development, since it is the developing countries who are largely the custodians of biodiversity. The National Institute on Biological Diversity of the Republic of Korea as offered its services as a collaborative center of excellence for the implementation of this historical contribution of the 131 members of the Group of 77 and china. Indeed to support the implementation of the Aichi targets more than 16 memoranda of understanding were signed between the secretariat and partner organizations, including UNDP, IUCN, IGES, OISCA, International treaty on plant genetic resources and others.

In adopting the Nagoya declaration on biodiversity and development the representatives of 34 bilateral and multilateral donor agencies agreed to translate the plan into their respective development cooperation priorities.

A resource mobilization strategy for the implementation of the Aichi targets was also adopted last Saturday. Parties will work to define, in time for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2012, the targets and mechanisms through which financial resources can be identified, unleashed and channeled.

I would also like to pay tribute to the generosity of the host country Japan which has pledged substantial Finance in support of implementation of the Convention. The Prime Minister of Japan, Mr Naoto Kan, announced 2 billion United States dollars in financing while the Minister of Environment of Japan announced the establishment of a Japan Biodiversity Fund to assist developing countries to implement the Nagoya Biodiversity accord. The fund will be administrated by the secretariat and will organize a series of regional and subregional workshops to assist eligible Parties to revise their national strategies and action plan and adopt rules and regulations on biodiversity. The workshops will be organized in partnership with the secretariat of the biodiversity related conventions as well as the Rio Conventions. The Satoyama International Initiative was adopted and more than 50 partners institutions and governments decided to join forces.

Additional financial resources were announced by France, the European Union and Norway. Some 110 million United States dollars were mobilized in support of projects under the CBD LifeWeb Initiative aimed at enhancing the protected-area agenda. Since its inception at the initiative of Germany, the Life web initiative has mobilized more than US\$ 750 millions

At the closure of the meeting, H.H. Prince Bandar Bin Saud Bin Mohammad Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia announced its intention to play a leadership role raising public awareness in the Arab world for the implementation of the Aichi targets. Indeed raising awareness in support of the implementation of the convention is among the strategic objectives of the biodiversity vision. Building on the success of the International Year on Biodiversity and at the initiative of Japan, the participants of the Nagoya biodiversity summit recommended that the General Assembly proclaim 2011 2020 as the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity. The proposal is before you for your consideration and decision.

Indeed engaging the people at large and in particular the youth and children is crucial. In support of the celebration of the International Year on Biodiversity, the CEO of Aeon Environmental Foundation established the Midori Prize of half million dollars. The award

ceremony took place in conjunction with the ministerial segment. Mr. Jean Lemire, the Honorary Ambassador of Greenwave Initiative was awarded the prize for the category on implementation. Mr. Jean Lemire, a Canadian national, a movie maker and explorer, announced his initiative of 1000 days for the planet to educate the youth and children. The three years expedition on biodiversity of the SEDNA IV will start on 22 May 2011 from Montreal and the boat will be in Rio to present the preliminary results to the Heads of State and Government attending the Rio plus 20 Summit. The expedition is being supported by all relevant UN agencies and international NGOs. His Highness the Prince of Monaco, who also attended the ministerial segment, is considering support.

Madame Chair, distinguished delegates

A new page in the history of the convention on life on earth was opened in Nagoya and new era of living in harmony with nature into the future was ushered in. The support of this supreme organ of the United Nations organisation is essential. The support of your committee is therefore required. I would like to pay tribute to the Secretary General Mr Ban Ki Moon for his decision announced at Nagoya to mobilize the whole United Nations system in support to the implementation of the Aichi Nagoya compact. Therefore the next meeting of the Chief Executive Board to be held in March 2011 in Nairobi has a new agenda item : biodiversity. The biodiversity family and in particular our children look forward to your support in including biodiversity as an agenda item in 2015 at a high level event of the 70th session on biodiversity of the United Nations General Assembly with the participation of 192 Heads of State and government as to undertake a mid term review of the Aichi Strategic Plan in 2015. Indeed humanity cannot afford to miss the 2015 meeting with history.

I thank you for your attention.