



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**



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STATEMENT

BY MR. AHMED DJOGLAF

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 39TH MEETING OF THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT
FACILITY COUNCIL**

16 NOVEMBER 2010, WASHINGTON DC



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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COP 10 / MOP 5

Good morning ladies and gentlemen

Four years ago, your CEO, Madam Barbut, unveiled an inconvenient truth in her article for the second edition of *Gincana*: nobody cares about biodiversity. She wrote: “the simple message that without biodiversity there is no life had very little staying power.”

Since then and with the support of its financial mechanism, history is on the move and the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit was historical. The summit was attended by the 18,650 accredited participants representing the 193 Parties and their partners. 130 ministers as well as the Heads of State and Government attended the Ministerial Segment of the Nagoya Summit. The representatives of 650 municipalities including 200 mayors, 122 legislators from 60 countries, 34 bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, were gathered for the same cause. The second private donor forum on biodiversity was held also prior to the High Level Segment.

Business was not as usual. 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. Some 110 million United States dollars were announced by France, the European Union and Norway to support projects under the CBD LifeWeb Initiative aimed at enhancing the protected-area agenda.

Within a couple of days, two international legal instruments were finalized in the same city. The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization was finally adopted with the participation of more than 122 ministers, 18 years after the signature of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Rio de Janeiro, to operationalize its third objective. It established the foundation for a new international economic and ecological order based on respect for nature in its diversity and equity. The signing ceremony of this historic instrument will be held 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 7 March 2011, the signing ceremony of the Kuala Lumpur – Nagoya supplementary protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety will take place also in New York in conjunction with the preparatory meeting of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

Together with the Nagoya Protocol, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties adopted the “Aichi Target” included in the Strategic Plan of the Convention for the period 2011 – 2020, as a blueprint for global biodiversity agenda for the next decade. The five strategic goals aim to 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 yet realistic headline targets were adopted, including the target of achieving 17 per cent of terrestrial and 10 per cent of marine and coastal zones under protection. 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 next meeting of the United Nations Chief Executive Board to be held in March 2011 in Nairobi has a new agenda item: biodiversity. The Aichi Target will be translated into national biodiversity strategies and action plans within two years.

Madam CEO, distinguished Council members,

Financial commitment continues to receive elevated attention. In Nagoya, the Conference of the Parties affirmed the commitment to substantially increasing resources (financial, human and technical) from all sources, balanced with the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2020, and agreed to adopt targets at its eleventh meeting, provided that robust baselines have been identified and endorsed, and that an effective reporting framework has been adopted. A list of concrete activities and initiatives as well as indicators for resource mobilization were accepted, and there was a keen interest in exploring innovative financial mechanisms as supplementary sources of funding, in particular in mobilizing private sector investments.

Decisions on the financial mechanism have reflected a new level of maturity in the relationship between the Convention and its financial mechanism. After its review of the past guidance, accumulated up to 75 pages long, the Conference of the Parties adopted a consolidated list of guidance to the financial mechanism, less than ten pages, greatly enhancing the credibility of being an authority to provide funding guidance. In anticipation of the next replenishment, the Conference of the Parties adopted, for the first time, the terms of reference for a full assessment of the amount of funds that are necessary to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in accordance with the guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties, in fulfilling their commitments under the Convention for the sixth replenishment period of the GEF Trust Fund. In addition, the Conference of the Parties adopted several new criteria for the fourth review of the effectiveness of the financial mechanism.

On behalf of the Convention, I am pleased to transmit to the GEF Council the set of additional guidance to the financial mechanism adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Several guidances require immediate attention, such as updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and development of country-specific resource mobilization strategies. I am glad to circulate to you a preliminary list of regional and subregional workshops on national biodiversity strategies and action plans in light of the Aichi Targets. The first regional response to the Nagoya outcomes will be elaborated in the Arab region at the regional workshop on biodiversity and finance in Cairo, two weeks from now, and just one month after the adoption of the Nagoya Accord.

We must make sure that updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans will not immediately become an addition to national archives, and they will be implemented with necessary financial back up. Indeed, new national biodiversity strategies and action plans will include country-specific resource mobilization strategies. Two years ago in Bonn, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties invited the Global Environment Facility to consider how it can contribute to the implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization, including consideration of a plan to address the strategy for resource mobilization, in consultation with the GEF implementing agencies. The Nagoya Summit further requested the Global Environment Facility to provide timely and adequate financial support to updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans, which may include the development of country-specific resource mobilization strategies. Thus, I welcome the enhanced role of the Global Environment Facility in the implementation of the strategy for resource mobilization of the Convention.

Another important guidance is on South-South cooperation. 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 in Nagoya. The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties invited the GEF to consider establishing a South-South biodiversity cooperation trust fund for the implementation of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan of the Convention based on voluntary contributions. Since the developing countries are largely the custodians of biodiversity, I would like to call for an expedited consideration of this request from the Conference of the Parties.

Colleagues, Friends,

The International Year of Biodiversity has been phenomenal, the message of biodiversity has been brought to an audience that has never been outreached before, and the level of understanding the biodiversity crisis has been deepened further. On 22 September, the first high-level meeting on biodiversity of the United Nations General Assembly celebrated the International Year of Biodiversity at the conclusion of the Summit on the Millennium Development Goals. The closing ceremony next month in Ishikawa will mark the commencement of the International Year of Forest and the United Nations Decade for Biodiversity, thus carrying this year's success well into the future.

On 13 April, the International Year of Biodiversity was launched on Capitol Hill, Washington DC, together with an event that celebrated the work of President Arroyo of the Philippines and her leadership in the Coral Triangle Initiative. In South Africa, audiences of over 600,000 spectators watching live matches of the 2010 FIFA World Cup on giant screens were brought a short message on biodiversity prepared by the GEF and CBD Secretariat. In Nagoya, 400 representatives of businesses and business associations were gathered at the reception dinner hosted by GEF CEO. The financial support to the Nagoya Protocol pledged by GEF CEO has elevated the financial mechanism of the Convention into an agile and responsive institution at the service of global biodiversity agenda.

Similar examples are many. Hence, I wish to put on record my gratitude to Madam Barbut and her staff for consistent support to the Convention on Biological Diversity. We in the secretariat look forward to the enhanced partnership with the financial mechanism in our common form Nagoya to India and beyond.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Without the leadership of Japan, the Nagoya Protocol and the Aichi Targets would not have been possible. In the early hours of last October Saturday and from Hanoi, the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Naoto Kan, phoned to Japanese Minister of the Environment, Mr. Ryu Matsumoto, in Nagoya, and offered congratulations on the historic success of the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit. Indeed, the whole biodiversity community owes this historic outcome to Japanese Government and Japanese People.

Successful outcomes go as far as they can be implemented. Moments ago, the distinguished Council member of Japan further announced that Japan will establish a Nagoya Trust Fund under the Global Environment Facility to support access to genetic resources and

benefit sharing as well as transfer of technology. This Nagoya spirit sets a new bar in international cooperation for biodiversity, and will certainly guide us through the next decade toward the achievement of the Aichi Targets. Arigato Gozaimasu, Japan.

I thank you for your attention and wish you a successful meeting.