



STATEMENT

BY MR AHMED DJOGLAF

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

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE SECOND INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS
AND HIGH LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

**17 NOVEMBER 2010
SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**



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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,

The President of the Dominican Republic Leonel Fernandez has rightly stated that “the world of the future should not be one of irresponsible development, at the cost of fossil fuels, uncontrolled logging and other predatory actions, but sustainable progress, through the use of renewable resources.”

It was in this spirit that world leaders attending the 2002 Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development agreed to the 2010 Target of slowing biodiversity worldwide as a means of poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth.

However, this past May the third edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook showed that 2010 Target has not been met: species worldwide continue to disappear at up to 1,000 times the natural background rate of extinction. The report 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.

The human costs of these losses will be extremely high, as biodiversity is a natural asset that underpins almost everything we do. This is nowhere truer than in the Americas. For example, in the United States recreational fishing it is worth approximately US\$ 21 billion a year, and in Canada US\$ 5.2 billion. In the Caribbean, an 80% reduction in coral reefs over the last three decades is expected to reduce revenues from dive tourism by US\$ 300 million per year. A 2007 analysis of Peru’s protected area system estimated that current and potential benefits contribute over US\$ 1 billion per year to the national economy, compared with only US\$1.7 million allocated for park management.

The list continues. The importance of biodiversity for sustainable development in this region is why the countries of the Americas were active participants at the Convention’s tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties last month in Nagoya, Japan. At COP10 our 193 Parties – nearly every nation on Earth – together adopted a new biodiversity strategy for the coming decade with the participation of all stakeholders, including youth, local and indigenous authorities, parliamentarians and the private sector.

The new biodiversity strategy emphasizes 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. The new biodiversity strategy also includes a 2050 biodiversity vision and a 2020 biodiversity target and sub-targets, and contains a means of implementation and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

At COP10 in Japan the Parties also adopted the Aichi/Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, which is one of the most important legal instruments in the history of the drive toward sustainable development. The Protocol establishes a new North-South relationship through a genuine partnership between the owners and users of genetic resources. This makes it an indispensable tool in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

What we now need is political will at all levels to effectively implement the new biodiversity strategy and the Aichi-Nagoya Protocol. I ask for your help in this task. The citizens

of the Americas deserve a rich and stable biosphere upon which to build their future prosperity.

As the slogan of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity reminds us: Biodiversity is life...Biodiversity is OUR life.

Thank you for your kind attention.