



STATEMENT

BY MR AHMED DJOGLAF

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

ON THE OCCASION OF

THE PAN-EUROPEAN MEETING ON BIODIVERSITY

27 JANUARY 2011

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND



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



Life in harmony, into the future
いのちの共生を、未来へ
COP 10 / MOP 5

Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you know, the 5th Intergovernmental Conference “Biodiversity in Europe” was held from 22-24 September 2009 at Liege University, Belgium. The conference produced a “Message from Liege”, in which a range of priorities and recommendations to conserve ecosystem services, to address the biodiversity impacts of climate change, and to integrate biodiversity into other sectors of society are listed. A new overall target suggested for pan-Europe was to “halt any further loss of species and habitats and, by 2025, restoration of degraded areas with an emphasis on links between biodiversity, ecosystem services, climate change and human well-being”..

This important message was also highlighted during the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity by Global Biodiversity Outlook 3, which confirmed that both the Gothenburg target of stopping biodiversity loss in Europe¹ and the Johannesburg commitment of slowing biodiversity loss worldwide by 2010 had not been met. Based on 120 national reports from Parties to the Convention as well as the scientific literature, GBO-3 report warned that, without concerted action, massive further loss of biodiversity might 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.

Responding to this message from GBO-3, European leaders gathered in Azerbaijan in July 2010 and produced the Gabala Declaration, which urged the European community to “ensure high priority is given to biodiversity on the pan-European political agenda taking into account the post-2010 CBD target.” This Declaration helped provide momentum for the historic 65th session of the UN General Assembly in September, where a high-level segment with the participation of heads of state and government was devoted to biodiversity for the first time ever.

At the UNGA, Swiss economist and UN General Assembly President Joseph Deiss stated: “We can no longer ignore the continuing destruction of the ecosystems that not only provide us with material services such as food, medicine and carbon sinks, but also sustain humanity in our spiritual and emotional wellbeing. Fortunately, strategies exist for protecting and preserving our planet’s rich biodiversity. We now need countries to implement these strategies.”

Subsequently, at the Convention’s tenth Conference of the Parties in October in Nagoya, Japan, some 18,000 participants representing 193 Parties and their partners agreed on a package of measures that, if implemented, will ensure that the ecosystems of the planet will continue to sustain human well-being into the future.

COP10 adopted the 2011-2020 Biodiversity Strategic Plan, including the “Aichi Targets”, a set of 20 headline targets, organized under 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. Among the targets, Parties have agreed to at least halve and where feasible bring close to zero the rate of loss of natural habitats including forests; protect 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas

¹ UN/ECE 2003 Declaration by the environment ministers of the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Fifth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” Kiev, Ukraine, 21– 23 May 2003. ECE/CEP/94/Rev.1. See http://www.rusrec.ru/homepage/databases/int_law/ece.cep.94.rev.1.e.pdf

and 10 per cent of marine and coastal areas; restore at least 15 percent of degraded areas; and make special efforts to reduce the pressures faced by coral reefs.

In order to achieve these ambitious global goals, actions in support of the Aichi Targets will be required at subnational and local levels. In Nagoya, Parties endorsed a plan of action on cities and biodiversity adopted by the Nagoya Biodiversity City summit attended by more than 200 mayors. 122 legislators from around the world attending the GLOBE meeting on parliamentarians and biodiversity declared their support for the implementation of the new Strategic Plan. Representatives of 34 bilateral and multilateral donor agencies agreed to translate the plan into their respective development cooperation priorities. At the Ecosystems Pavilion, heads of agencies and international organizations discussed ways to better integrate actions to combat biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation. And a Multi-Year Plan of Action on South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development was adopted by the G77 and China.

Finance in support of implementation of the Convention was also announced. Japan established the Japan Biodiversity Fund, while Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan committed USD 2 billion for the three coming years to financing biodiversity projects. Additional financial resources were announced by France, the European Union and Norway, with nearly USD 110 million being mobilized in support of projects under the CBD LifeWeb Initiative. Parties will define mechanisms in time for COP11 in India 2012 through which additional financial resources can be identified and channelled.

The meeting also adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization. This historic agreement creates a framework that balances access to genetic resources on the basis of prior informed consent and mutually agreed terms with the fair and equitable sharing of benefits while taking into account the important role of traditional knowledge. The Protocol also proposes the creation of a global multilateral mechanism that will operate in transboundary areas or situations where prior informed consent cannot be obtained. The Nagoya Protocol is expected to gain early entry into force by 2012, with support from the Global Environment Facility of USD 1 million.

As recommended by the Secretary General, Mr Ban Ki Moon, the new Strategic Plan was adopted as the overarching global coordinated framework of the whole biodiversity family. Heads of agencies, including heads of the biodiversity-related conventions, as well as heads of NGOs attending the meeting endorsed this recommendation. Hence the whole United Nations system with the support of civil society will assist the 193 Parties in translating the Strategic Plan into national biodiversity and action plans to be completed by COP12 in 2014.

With this in mind, I urge you today in Geneva to advance deliberations on a Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy in line with the Aichi Targets and coinciding with the 2011-2020 International Decade of Biodiversity. I also urge you to further consider enhanced collaboration among the biodiversity-related Conventions and UNEP, along with implementation issues at the pan-European, regional and country levels. Europe has been a leader when it comes to saving our biological resources, and you must continue to be through the years to come – now more than ever we need to act on the message that biodiversity is life... biodiversity is our life.

Thank you for your kind attention.