



Convention on
Biological Diversity

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STATEMENT BY

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

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE GENERAL DEBATE OF 124TH ASSEMBLY OF
THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

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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,

Following the historic adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising out of their Utilization, the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Ban-Ki Moon said that the Nagoya Protocol “has great potential to advance our common efforts to promote sustainable development, achieve the Millennium Development Goals and enable all people to enjoy the full benefits of nature’s services, today and in the future.”

Indeed this is the most important legal instrument in the environmental movement and needs to enter into force as soon as possible. So far 8 countries – Colombia, Algeria, Yemen, Brazil, Mexico, Rwanda, Ecuador and the Central African Republic – have signed the Nagoya Protocol. Another signing ceremony will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 11 May 2011, and an impressive number of Parties from all the regions of the world have informed the Secretariat of their intention to sign the Protocol on this occasion.

The Protocol will remain open for signing until 1 February 2012 at UN Headquarters and will enter into force 90 days after the deposit of the 50th instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession. The eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP 11), which will convene in India from 8-19 October 2012, is the target for convening the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol. To achieve this target, the Nagoya Protocol must enter into force no later than 8 October 2012, with the 50th instrument of ratification deposited no later than 10 July 2012.

With the financial support of the Global Environment Facility, and in partnership with UNDP, IPU and GLOBE international, breakfast meetings with parliamentarians across the world will be organized to facilitate the signing and ratification of the Nagoya Protocol. We at the CBD look forward to discussing the modalities of such briefings with parliamentarians attending this meeting in Panama. Additional information on the Nagoya Protocol can be found online at <http://www.cbd.int/abs/>; the focal point for these matters at the CBD Secretariat is Mr. Olivier Rukundo (email: olivier.rukundo@cbd.int; tel: +1 514 287 7048).

Overall, the active engagement of parliamentarians is essential for achieving the three objectives of the CBD. As you know, a resolution adopted unanimously by the 111th IPU Assembly in 2004 on the role of parliamentarians in preserving biodiversity recognizes the CBD as the principal international instrument addressing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Then in 2008 at COP9 in Bonn, parliamentarians adopted the Bonn Declaration on Parliamentarians and Biodiversity (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/groups/parliamentarians/bonn-declaration-2008-en.pdf>).

More recently, 120 legislators from 38 Parties to the Convention participated in the Parliamentarians and Biodiversity Forum co-organized by GLOBE International, its Japan chapter, and the CBD Secretariat at CBD COP10 in Nagoya. The resulting Nagoya Declaration on Parliamentarians and Biodiversity (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/biodiv/parli-nagoya/official/parli-nagoya-declaration-en.pdf>) not only explicitly supported the establishment of an Access and Benefit Sharing Protocol under the CBD, but also recognizes “the essential role of parliamentarians in influencing the decisions of governments and translating the consensus reached internationally into tangible actions at the national level, giving environmental issues a more prominent position in their domestic political mainstream, integrating it more closely into the national policy-making and legislative processes and in particular into budgetary frameworks.”

This could not be truer. Parliamentarians are a critical ally for the CBD and the biodiversity family more generally – an ally we simply cannot do without. I therefore look forward to working closely with you to ensure the early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol – and through the Protocol a prosperous and equitable future for humankind, sustained by the great diversity of life on Earth.

Thank you for your kind attention.