



Convention on
Biological Diversity

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**STATEMENT BY AHMED DJOGLAF
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DIVERSITY**

on the occasion of

**WORLD DAY FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY FOR DIALOGUE AND
DEVELOPMENT
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Cultural and biological diversity are closely intertwined. Indeed, the conservation and sustainable use of nature's resources is at the heart of the cultures and values of indigenous peoples. For more than 300 million indigenous peoples, the Earth offers not only a livelihood, but it is also the foundation of their cultural and spiritual identities. And although they constitute a relatively small portion of the world's population, indigenous peoples represent the largest portion of cultural diversity on earth. Because the Earth and its resources are inherited from the ancestors, and includes trans-generational obligations, for the world's indigenous peoples, "Mother Earth" is a sacred place.

Moreover, indigenous knowledge, which is unique to a specific culture, has much to offer in terms of biodiversity and resource management. The contribution of indigenous and local communities to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity goes far beyond their role as natural resource managers. Most indigenous and local communities are situated in areas where the vast majority of the world's plant genetic resources are found. Many such communities have cultivated and used biodiversity in a sustainable way for thousands of years. Knowledge about the use of specific plants and their healing and therapeutic attributes for treating diseases has mostly been passed down orally from generation to generation.

As the major intergovernmental process aimed at protecting biological and cultural diversity, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), directly recognizes the dependency of indigenous and local communities on biological diversity and the unique role of indigenous and local communities in conserving life on Earth. This recognition is enshrined in both the preamble of the Convention text, as well as in its key provisions.

Last year at the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit, the Parties to the Convention finalized elements of the code of ethical conduct and adopted "the Tkaríhwaíé:ri¹ Code of Ethical Conduct on Respect for the Cultural and Intellectual Heritage of Indigenous and Local Communities Relevant for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity". Also at COP 10, the

¹ Pronounced {Tga-ree-wa-yie-ree}, a Mohawk term meaning "the proper way".



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

Parties welcomed a joint programme of work between the Secretariat of the CBD and UNESCO on recognizing the inextricable link between biological and cultural diversity.

The promotion and protection of biological and of cultural diversity is a unique opportunity to unite and cooperate. On behalf of all of humanity - strong action and commitment are required to protect both the world's biological and cultural diversity, with all its richness, meanings and colours.
