



Convention on
Biological Diversity

**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011**



STATEMENT BY

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

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING
AND
INTERNATIONAL EXPERT WORKSHOP
ON
INDICATORS FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020**

**HIGH WYCOMBE, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN
IRELAND
20 JUNE 2011**



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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,

Last October, thanks to the leadership of Japan, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Nagoya Biodiversity Compact comprising a global and comprehensive biodiversity strategy for 2011-2020 including the Aichi Targets; the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising out of their Utilization; the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; and the Strategy for Resource Mobilization in support of the three objectives of the Convention. In order to engage the people of the world, the Nagoya meeting recommended to the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly to declare 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity. The Decade was launched on 22 May through a number of regional launches, in some instances together with the United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification.

Building on the great success of Nagoya, the International Decade on Biodiversity is beginning with a new wave of national biodiversity planning. To this effect, the CBD Secretariat in collaboration with a range of partners, and thanks to the Japan Biodiversity Fund, has embarked on a series of sub-regional capacity building workshops: six workshops of the first set of 17 workshops have already been held and one – in Kigali, Rwanda for the East Africa region – is taking place as we speak. These workshops aim to assist countries in the process of designing national biodiversity targets based on the Aichi targets, and to develop monitoring systems capable of tracking progress made towards these national targets. The guidance you can provide on monitoring the implementation of biodiversity targets through indicators, from the local to global level, will greatly facilitate the ambitious task to which Parties have committed in Nagoya.

More than ever, this process needs to be collaborative. It needs to take advantage of existing and emerging indicators processes, such as those for the Millennium Development Goals and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. It needs to monitor achievements in areas that have long been considered beyond the core concerns of the biodiversity community: awareness, economic and development planning, our trade system, sustainable production and consumption – and this must be done in partnership with the competent organizations. It needs to be relevant to the entire biodiversity community, including more specialized conventions and regional agreements. And it needs to recognize the efforts made by the organizations that can lead the development of indicators and enable them to pursue their efforts.

A small AHTEG meeting might not have been able to do justice to all these challenges. I am therefore particularly grateful to the United Kingdom, and Defra in particular, for having taken the initiative to organize this International Expert Workshop in support of the AHTEG. This demonstrates – yet again – the leadership of the United Kingdom: As Environment Secretary of State Caroline Spelman, said in Nagoya: “The UK is committed to bringing about real change in the way in which natural capital and ecosystem services are valued and mainstreamed into decision making processes.” And also domestically, the Natural Environment White Paper, published just two weeks ago, is a manifestation of the will to transform society and to ensure that biodiversity has its rightful place in planning and decision making.

Thank you also to those who have enabled this combined meeting – Canada, the European Union, the European Environment Agency, Norway and Switzerland, in addition to the United Kingdom. I am confident that these contributions will pay dividend as your combined expertise and wisdom enables countries to better monitor biodiversity as an integral part of their development agendas.

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