



Statement by Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, at the Evening Dinner during the Second Meeting on the Implementation of the Plan of Action on Sub-national Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities on Biodiversity, 5 September 2011, Bonn, Germany

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is a strong need for decentralized implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in a country as federalized as Germany, as well as a need for decentralized cooperation.

In this context pioneering initiatives such as ICLEI's EU Capitals of Biodiversity Award are of great importance. This year judges evaluated 900 biodiversity projects from over 124 municipalities in Germany and crowned Hannover the winner. We need to encourage more such awards, for they help to bring attention to excellence in biodiversity preservation at the local level.

You will also remember the highly successful local awareness-raising campaign that took place throughout Germany pre-COP 9. In 2007 the German government launched an information campaign under the banner 'One Natural Environment – One World – Our Future', with a key role played by Germany's Nature Alliance (Naturallianz), comprising high-profile figures from the arts, science and research, industry, politics and non-governmental organizations. Such broad-based alliances are exactly what are needed to engage people at the local level, and must take advantage of such key events and initiatives as The Green Wave, 1000 Days for the Planet, and the 2011-2020 UN Decade on Biodiversity.

I am sure we can count on Bonn to be a leader in this area. Through its backing of the Global Partnership on Local and Sub-national Action for Biodiversity, Bonn has been at the forefront of the urban biodiversity movement since 2007, as well as more recently under the leadership of mayor Nimptsch, whose support was invaluable during the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity and in the lead up to COP-10.

The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) also has many initiatives in support of biodiversity, from formulating guidelines for sustainable tourism in sensitive areas, furthering the development of the ecosystem approach, and integrating biodiversity into climate change mitigation and adaptation. Such initiatives can go a long way toward making a difference at the local level.

I would therefore ask the German government at all levels to continue promoting local action on biodiversity, while calling for the next meeting of the Global Partnership in Nagoya to be the first to bring together the advisory committees on cities and sub-national governments.

Thank you.