



STATEMENT BY

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THIRD MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION ON SUB-
NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, CITIES AND OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR
BIODIVERSITY**

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

Good morning. Let me begin by thanking the City of Nagoya for hosting us here today. For many of us it is a return to this special city after the successful COP10 in 2010; and the City Biodiversity Summit, which attracted more than 600 delegates from more than 200 local authorities around the world.

192 national governments and the European Union are signatories to the CBD and have committed to implementing its objectives: the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

The purpose of the *Secretariat* of the CBD is to serve and guide these “Parties” in their adherence to, and dialogue on, the text of the Convention. However, the CBD also recognizes the importance of several “major groups” and their critical role in partnering to support the Parties’ achievement of the CBD’s objectives. Prominent among these are local and sub-national governments.

Local governments have relevance to every one of the 25 thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues of the CBD. Cities, in particular, are increasing in prominence as the world’s population becomes increasingly more urban. They are the seats of political and corporate power; the centres of material wealth; and, while they are having a severe impact on biodiversity, they also present the greatest opportunities for creating awareness and support for biodiversity policy and action, anywhere. Meanwhile NGOs, like ICLEI, serve as coordinating mechanisms for the cities of the world, creating a platform for them to contribute to the global biodiversity debate, and making their potential known.

Until recently local governments did not feature significantly in any of the UN’s multi-lateral agreements that relate to environmental sustainability. But at CBD COP9 in Bonn, a decision was dedicated to recognizing their role. This was taken further at COP10 in 2010, here in Nagoya, with an additional decision that endorsed a ***Plan of Action on Sub-national Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity***. The “Plan of Action” provides Parties with guidelines on how they can assist local and sub-national government, and in so doing allow local and sub-national government to better assist them.

I urge you to respond to the Plan of Action with coordinated actions of your own; I urge you keep driving the momentum behind this new but profoundly promising movement of cities for biodiversity; I urge you to continue the good work that you are doing and the way that you are demonstrating that the Convention is, *ultimately*, implemented at the local level! You, as local governments and their networks, have the support of the Secretariat of the CBD to take the Parties up on their decision.

I regret not being able to join you and share in the discussion arising from this meeting. I will, however, soon attend the ***First Meeting of the Advisory Committee of Sub-national Governments*** in Curitiba, Paraná, Brazil, next month. Furthermore I hope to see all of you at the ***City and Sub-national Summit*** – in parallel to COP11 in Hyderabad in October this year. You have a lot to discuss so, without further ado, I hereby open this workshop, wishing you an inspiring and productive two days.

Thank you.