



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**



2010 International Year of Biodiversity

STATEMENT

BY MR. AHMED DJOGHLAF

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

ON THE OCCASION OF

**INFORMAL EXPERT WORKSHOP ON THE UPDATING OF
THE STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE CONVENTION FOR THE
POST-2010 PERIOD**

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COP 10 / MOP 5

Right Honourable Hilary Benn MP,
Secretary Maria Cecilia Wey de Brito,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite the significant progress achieved, we have failed to fulfil the promise to substantially reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity adopted eight years ago by the 110 Heads of State and Government attending the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Strömstad meeting of the European Union held in September last year confirmed the Athens message that the European Union will not meet its 2010 biodiversity target. A similar conclusion was reached at the Kobe Biodiversity Dialogue as well as at the First ASEAN Biodiversity Conference held in Singapore in October last year. The more than 100 national reports received so far from Parties have demonstrated that we continue to lose biodiversity at an unprecedented rate. I would like to thank Mizuno-San and Japan for assisting the Secretariat to achieve a 100 per cent rate of submission of the fourth national reports before the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

As Albert Einstein said, “We can’t solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.” This is why we are gathered here today by solving the problems that we human beings have created for ourselves and our children by using a new way of doing business, a new thinking, a new approach for preparing, adopting and implementing together the new Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity for the period 2011-2020. This new Strategic Plan would include a 2050 biodiversity vision as well as 2020 targets and sub-targets, as well as means of implementation and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

It is based on this new thinking that the process for revising and updating the Strategic Plan was set out in decision IX/9 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. In line with that decision, Parties, international organizations and representatives of civil society, including business, have submitted their views and recommendations on the updating and revision of the Strategic Plan. The secretariat has received indeed more than 50 submissions. An issue management group of the Environmental Management Group on post 2010 biodiversity target was established in March last year under the leadership of UNEP.

An analysis and synthesis of views, drawing upon submissions from Parties and observers, as well as informal consultations, was prepared by the Secretariat and made available in June 2009, after which it was updated to reflect both further submissions received and views expressed in recent informal consultations. An initial draft of the Strategic Plan was submitted to a special joint meeting of the COP and SBSTTA bureaus held in Montreal last November. The revised draft containing the views and comments of the representatives of all the regions was submitted to a series of regional consultations, held in Tokyo, Cairo, Panama City and the Isle of Vilm, Germany. More than 16 workshops have been organized. It was submitted to the consideration of the business community at its meeting held in Jakarta in December last year as well as to the public at large through the Aichi-Nagoya e-international biodiversity conference.

The output from these meetings is before this global informal consultation convened with the participation of more than 60 Parties to the Convention. The results of your meeting will be submitted next month to the sixth UN/Norway Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity. The revised draft will be the basis for consideration of the new Strategic Plan and related targets and indicators by the fourteenth meeting of SBSTTA and the third meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation, to be held in Nairobi in May.

Work on the new Strategic Plan has attempted to improve on the previous plan in two key areas, namely:

- Providing a mission and targets for 2020 that are both achievable and more measurable, and with a clearer logic linking the vision, mission and targets consistent with the available scientific evidence, including a scientific review of biodiversity projections prepared for the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook; and
- Providing a more effective framework for national implementation of the three objectives of the Convention including through national targets, with appropriate support mechanisms and a more robust approach to monitoring and review, at national and global levels, including an enhanced role for the Conference of the Parties in reviewing implementation and learning from experience.

Other proposed key components of the post-2010 Strategic Plan are:

- The drawing of strong linkages between biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being;
- Addressing the economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Making explicit the importance of biodiversity preservation for poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- Addressing both the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, and particularly the latter since they remain largely unaffected by our efforts to date. These include, *inter alia*, excessive consumption, for example of fossil fuels and meat, population growth, environmentally harmful subsidies, and a lack of public awareness about the harmful consequences of biodiversity loss;
- Promoting concerted action by all by all sectors of government and society in addressing biodiversity loss; and
- Linking such action with efforts to combat and adapt to climate change.

Such achievements would not have been possible without the leadership of the triple Presidency of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. In March last year, in Bonn, the Germany Presidency of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties convened a meeting with more than 50 eminent experts on the post 2010 targets. Japan in its capacity as President of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties submitted a detailed, innovative and inspiring strategic plan, which was considered by the regional meeting for Asia held in December last year in Tokyo. Today's meeting is being convened in partnership with Brazil, which held the Presidency of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and its partner, the United Kingdom.

As Charles Darwin stated, "It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is most adaptable to change." This is valid not only for human beings but also for institutions and processes. The world has changed and the global partnership for biodiversity will need to adapt to these changes. This is what the United Kingdom-Brazil partnership for the post-2010 era is all about.

The post-2010 target will not be achieved without the full engagement of all stakeholders, including the business community. As Darwin also said, "In the long history of humankind...those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed."

I would like therefore to pay tribute to you, Right Honourable Hilary Benn and Secretary Maria Cecilia Wey de Brito, for this demonstration of the new approach in addressing biodiversity challenges. I would like to acknowledge and welcome the participation of the

representative of the United State of America to this meeting. It is only through a broad-based partnership of all Parties and their partners that we shall succeed in translating the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity into reality. As Minister Minc from Brazil stated, “We need to translate our dream into reality.” This is what this meeting is about and this is what this year’s celebration of the International Year of Biodiversity is about. Indeed, biodiversity is life and biodiversity is our life.

I wish you every success in your deliberations and thank you for your kind attention.