



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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**STATEMENT BY**

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**ON THE OCCASION OF**

**THE FIRST MEETING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE  
NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND THE FAIR AND  
EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS ARISING FROM THEIR UTILIZATION**

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

Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Il y a quelques heures, la famille environnementale a célébré la Journée mondiale de l'environnement. Comment mieux célébrer cet événement marquant qu'en équipant la famille environnementale afin d'améliorer sa compréhension des défis multiformes auxquels elle fait face, lui permettant ainsi de mieux y répondre. Il me plaît de ce fait d'inaugurer ce matin le nouveau site Web de la Convention des Nations Unies sur la diversité biologique, la convention sur la vie sur terre.

Le nouveau site Web comporte un système amélioré de navigation au service de la mise en œuvre de l'accord de Nagoya. Cette inauguration est également célébrée en communiquant avec le public à travers le monde dans sa langue maternelle, vecteur privilégié des valeurs culturelles et civilisationnelles ancestrales. Il me plaît de ce fait d'inaugurer ce matin le site Web de la Convention des Nations Unies sur la diversité biologique en langue arabe. Permettez-moi de rendre un hommage marqué aux autorités du Royaume de l'Arabie Saoudite, et en particulier de son Altesse Royale le Prince Bandar Bin Saud Mohammad Al Saud, pour cette contribution exemplaire au service de la cause de la biodiversité au sein du monde arabe. Il me doit aussi de réitérer ma gratitude envers la France et l'Espagne pour leur contribution continue aux versions française et espagnole du site Web.

Comment mieux célébrer la naissance du mouvement environnemental contemporain qu'avec la représentante du mécanisme de financement par excellence du développement durable du système des Nations Unies. La présence parmi nous ce matin de Mme Monique Barbut est un témoignage additionnel de son engagement indéfectible à la cause même qui nous rassemble ici.

Comment mieux célébrer la journée mondiale de l'environnement que par la présence des représentants des élus du peuple. Il me plaît aussi de remercier sincèrement la mairesse de Montpellier, madame Hélène Mandroux, pour son engagement à la mise en œuvre du partenariat sur les villes et la biodiversité, né à Nagoya en octobre dernier.

Comment mieux contribuer à cette journée marquante qu'en nous réunissant ici même à Montréal pour traduire l'accord de Nagoya dans le vécu collectif des nations et des peuples du monde. Il me plaît de ce fait de vous souhaiter la bienvenue à tous au siège de votre Secrétariat et je tiens à rendre aussi hommage aux autorités fédérale, provinciale et municipale du Canada pour l'appui constant offerts pour répondre aux besoins du Secrétariat et l'allocation de locaux supplémentaires.

Indeed the adoption of 29 October 2010 at COP-10 of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization marked a new era in the life of the environment family. The one hundred and ninety-three Parties gathered at this historical meeting made a commitment to further contribute to sustainable development by agreeing to fairly and equitably share the benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources.

This historical achievement would not have been possible without the contribution of the Parties, their partners and without the contribution of two Co-Chairs. Thank you Mr. Casas. I will kindly request the Canadian delegation to convey to Mr. Timothy Hodges our deep gratitude for his contribution. This historical achievement would not have been possible without the outstanding leadership of the people and Government of Japan. Let me once again convey my sincere condolences to the people of Japan for the loss of life, and our sympathy goes out to those affected by the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on 11 March. In spite of this tragedy, the leadership of Japan as COP-10 President, as evidenced by the message that we have just heard

form HEM Ryu Matsumoto, has continued to be outstanding. A letter co-signed by the President of COP-10, together with the incoming President of COP-11, addressed to 191 of their colleagues for the early entry to force of the Nagoya Protocol, is a case in point.

Your meeting today, under the leadership of your newly elected Bureau and the wisdom of the Co-Chairs, Mr. Fernando Casas and Ms. Janet Lowe, is indeed to lay the foundation of the implementation phase of this historical treaty. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Ms. Lowe on her appointment as Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Committee. In light of the leadership she demonstrated in establishing the Like-Minded-in-Spirit Group of Women and the key role she played during the negotiations of the Nagoya Protocol, I am certain that we can count on Ms. Lowe for her guidance in paving the way for the early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol.

The importance of having the Nagoya Protocol fully operational as soon as possible was emphasized by the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, when he called on all Parties to expedite the early entry into force of this new legal instrument at the service of sustainable development and in support of the Millennium Development Goals. Twenty-four countries have already answered this call for action and have signed the Nagoya Protocol. I wish to take this opportunity to encourage all 193 Parties to the Convention to build on this momentum and sign the Nagoya Protocol at the earliest opportunity, and to deposit their instruments of ratification as soon as possible.

The Global Environment Facility, under the direction of Ms. Barbut, has shown great leadership in assisting countries in achieving this target date for entry into force. Soon after the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol, the GEF approved a US\$ 2 million medium-scale project for the early entry into force and ratification of the Protocol. At the initiative of Japan, it also established a dedicated trust fund to help with its implementation. Thanks to this financial support, the Secretariat, in collaboration with a number of key international organizations, will be carrying out a series of awareness-raising and capacity-building activities throughout the next biennium. As part of these activities, briefings will be held for decision makers, such as parliamentarians, to further accelerate the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol by countries. In addition to the funds provided by the GEF, the Government of Japan has established a Biodiversity Fund with an initial allocation of US\$ 10 million to support the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including support in achieving target 15 of the Nagoya Protocol. These initiatives are clear indications of the willingness of the international community to continue working together in an attempt to halt the loss of biodiversity worldwide.

As stated by Mahatma Gandhi: "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." Now is the time to build on the outcomes of Nagoya and bring positive change to the world for our mutual benefit and the benefit of all life on Earth. The time for action is now, and you have a unique opportunity to be the change you wish to see in the world by ensuring that the first governing body of the Protocol is held back-to-back with the Hyderabad biodiversity summit in October 2012. As representatives of your respective countries, you have a unique responsibility to expedite the fifty ratifications required for its entry into force no later than 10 July 2012 and therefore to make a unique contribution to the celebration of the second year of the International Decade on Biodiversity, proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly at the initiative of Japan. This will be your contribution to next year's celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption and opening of signature in Rio of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

Thank you for your attention and I wish you success in this meeting.