



STATEMENT BY

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

ON THE OCCASION OF

**REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR AFRICA ON UPDATING NATIONAL
BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS**

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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sadly, far too many people across the world remain apathetic to the ongoing loss of life on Earth. This is because the majority of the public and policymakers remain unaware about the irreplaceable contributions that biodiversity makes to human wellbeing. As a result, biodiversity loss has not yet fully penetrated our collective consciousness.

However, some important advances have been made in this region. To name a few, Benin has been successful in integrating biodiversity into poverty reduction strategies by placing the environment among five thematic pillars. Togo for example has rehabilitated its protected areas by involving local communities in protected areas management. Kenya has successfully established a certification system to safeguard genetic diversity in agricultural and natural systems. And our host country, Ethiopia, has a very good example on sharing the benefits from commercial uses of the endemic *Vernonia*.

None of these are easy victories. They require tradeoffs among the interests of different sectors of society. They can be politically difficult to achieve and we would therefore like to salute these efforts.

We also know that these efforts are not enough and that is why the tenth meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, October 2010 adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and its 20 Aichi Targets. This Strategic Plan is part of a package of measures adopted at COP-10 that also includes 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. We are working with Parties to achieve an early ratification of these new Protocols.

COP-10 called upon Parties to formulate national targets, in line with the Aichi Targets, and to integrate them into updated NBSAPs. COP also set an ambitious timetable – national targets need to be developed in time to report to COP-11 in Hyderabad in October 2012.

For this reason, with the support from the Government of Japan, the Secretariat, together with regional partners, has started a second round of workshops to provide further support to Parties. I would like to record our gratitude to the Government for Japan for its leadership in the preparation of COP-10, at the meeting itself, and now in providing financial support to allow the implementation of the commitments made there.

This is a following-up workshop, based on the series of sub-regional/regional workshops that were held last year in Botswana, Senegal, Congo and Rwanda. We will focus this week on mainstreaming biodiversity, valuation and economic incentives, and resource mobilization. I am very grateful to our host, the Government and people of Ethiopia and our important partner in this region, UNECA for the excellent collaboration and their very effective preparation of the workshop. I would also like to thank the ABS Capacity Development Initiative for hosting this event.

Many Parties have already initiated the revision process of their NBSAPs, which is a very important step in the right direction. The participation of the participants from almost every country of this region, will build on this progress. With Rio+20 in a couple of month away, with COP-11 in Hyderabad coming shortly thereafter, and this 2012, being the second year of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, there are many other steps that must be taken.

Ladies and gentlemen, your deliberations this week will have global repercussions. I am confident that all participants will work constructively to establish the foundations for the full and effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achievement of the Aichi Targets. I wish you a productive and very successful workshop.

Thank you for your kind attention.