



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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**STATEMENT BY**

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE**

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

**Isle of Vilm, Germany,  
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**Life In harmony, Into the future  
いのちの共生を、未来へ  
OOP 10 / MOP 5**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last October, thanks to the leadership of Japan, 18500 participants representing 193 Parties and their partners adopted the Nagoya Biodiversity Compact comprising a global and comprehensive biodiversity strategy for 2011-2020, known as the Aichi Targets; 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. In order to engage the people of the world, the Nagoya meeting recommended to the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly to declare 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity. The Decade will be launched officially in Tokyo later in the year along with other regional launching events.

Building on the great success of Nagoya, the International Decade on Biodiversity is now beginning with a new wave of national biodiversity planning. This workshop taking place here in Vilm is a critical part of that process. Many countries in Europe have already gained substantial experience in developing and implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). We now need to draw on this communal expertise, for time is of the essence.

To provide effective guidance on national implementation, updated and revised NBSAPs need to be formulated as soon as possible. Any delay in developing these NBSAPs will augur poorly for the achievement of the Aichi Targets. To assist eligible countries in translating the Aichi Targets into NBSAPs before COP11, Japan has established a Japan Biodiversity Fund, which is now fully operational. Moreover, additional funds for national biodiversity planning have been made available to eligible countries through GEF-5.

In addition to revising NBSAPs, the signing and ratification of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS is an urgent topic. The CBD Secretariat and the Global Environment Facility are working to ensure that the first meeting of the governing body of this historic instrument will take place in India in October 2012, back-to-back with COP11. To this end, 50 ratifications are required before 19 July 2012. Similarly, the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol is also open for signature, and will enter into force 90 days after the deposit of the fortieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession. Finally, to reach consensus on funding targets at COP11, progress must be made on such foundational issues as what constitutes biodiversity-related funding and the levels needed, particularly in relation to the Aichi Targets and the implementation of NBSAPs.

The task we set ourselves in Nagoya was ambitious. It will require leadership and creative thinking from the Parties, national focal points, the GEF and the Secretariat to ensure the timely delivery of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan at national and regional levels. This workshop is therefore of the utmost importance, and I would like to sincerely thank the government of Germany for hosting and supporting it.

Today's workshop is the second of a series of regional and sub-regional workshops to be organized under the Japan Biodiversity Fund in 2011-2012. It is fitting that Europe is one of the first regions to translate the Nagoya outcomes into reality. Your deliberations this week can serve as a model for other regions. I have no doubt that European countries will live up to this challenge and set a path for a sustainable future both for this region and the rest of the world. I urge all participants to remember what is at stake in this process: nothing less than the future of life on Earth.

Thank you for your kind attention.