



STATEMENT BY

MR AHMED DJOGLAF

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

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE LOCAL ACTION FOR
BIODIVERSITY (LAB) ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**24 MARCH 2010
RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL**

Please check against delivery



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

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The phase of enhanced implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) initiated in Curitiba, calls for the active engagement of all stakeholders, including mayors and local authorities. It is in this spirit that, at the initiative of the Mayor of Curitiba, the CBD City and Biodiversity initiative was launched in March 2007 and submitted to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) held in Bonn in May 2008, with the participation of more than 6000 delegates. The Bonn meeting called for the preparation of a plan of action on cities and biodiversity. With the support of the steering committee of this unique initiative, the second Curitiba meeting on cities and biodiversity was held in January this year and adopted a road map towards the City and Biodiversity Summit to be held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan, on 25-26 October 2010. The result of this summit will be submitted to the ministers attending COP 10. The support and collaboration of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability – is essential for the preparation and implementation of the plan of action on cities and biodiversity, which will mirror at the city level the 2011-2020 strategic plan of the Convention. A forum on cities and biodiversity will be established in conjunction with upcoming COP meetings, starting with COP 11 to be held in India in October 2012.

I would like therefore to thank ICLEI for being a critical participant in the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity. ICLEI's Local Action for Biodiversity initiative in particular is a pioneering way for cities to implement the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. I would like also to convey my deep gratitude for the honour bestowed on me through membership on the Advisory Board of the Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) at this critical moment in the development of this pioneering initiative. At ICLEI's 2009 World Congress in Edmonton, Canada, a motion was adopted for the LAB initiative to be officially turned into a global ICLEI programme, meaning that LAB is now expanding beyond its initial 21-city project. This is truly a welcome development, as it will enable other cities to fight biodiversity loss by drawing on the wealth of experience that the original 21 LAB cities have thus far gained.

Given the great importance we at the Convention place on the success of LAB, allow me to urge ICLEI to identify ways through which smaller cities and cities in developing countries can join the initiative without having to face prohibitive financial costs. For the Secretariat, it is essential to create means for cities to engage in the CBD Cities and Biodiversity initiative freely and flexibly. Currently, ICLEI/LAB requires cities to contribute US\$ 55,000 for a three-year period. Although a substantial part of this payment goes towards participation in workshops and materials, part of it goes to cover ICLEI/LAB overhead and ICLEI corporate costs. I would ask ICLEI to consider ways to allow cities in poor developing countries to participate free of charge.

Indeed, now is precisely the right time to find ways to increase participation in the Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, 2010 being the International Year of Biodiversity. I look forward to an ongoing partnership with ICLEI and LAB in our common journey to Nagoya and beyond.

It is fitting that the new CBD-LAB is formed here in Rio at this inaugural meeting of the ICLEI Advisory Board. You will remember that ICLEI was founded in 1990 to advocate for local governments at the 1992 United Nations Rio Earth Summit, where the Convention on Biological Diversity itself was born. As the international community is now actively engaged in the preparation of Rio+20, let us work together to elevate our partnership mechanism for the enhanced implementation of the three Rio Conventions through the suggested joint Rio Convention work programme. This programme is currently being prepared and will be submitted to the upcoming COP meetings of each of the three Rio Conventions, to be held in Nagoya, Cancun and Seoul respectively, as well as to Rio+20 at a joint extraordinary COP of the Rio daughters.

Thank you for your kind attention.