



**The Permanent Mission of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
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Statement by

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**Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison
and International Cooperation**

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Head of the Libyan Delegation

before the High Level Meeting on Biodiversity

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(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on chairing this High Level Meeting on the International Year for Biodiversity which represents an opportunity to exchange opinions and share ideas in order to establish a united ground and joint understanding for maintaining the biological diversity.

I would like commend on the statement made by His Excellency, The Permanent Representative of Yemen, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

The international community has the right to have profound concerns about the volume of tangible and predicted dangers due to current biodiversity loss, which is no longer undoubted. The environmental scientific indications give rise to serious concerns and threaten to have serious impacts on human welfare and development horizons on the planet Earth. The danger is not restricted to Climate Change; the continuing biodiversity loss which creates the environmental balance represents a similar threat.

Mr. Chairman,

Addressing these challenges demands an effective and coordinated collective international effort based on the pledges made by the States at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, to implement the objectives of the Biodiversity Agreement more effectively; and to highly reduce the current biodiversity loss average by the year 2010 at the

international, regional and national levels; as a contribution towards the reduction of poverty, health improvement, increase of food security and maintaining the biodiversity.

The phenomenon of biodiversity and its impacts are undoubtedly imposing on the international community additional obligations for the support of development plans and programs for the developing and least developed countries; to encourage their policies aiming at the reduction of biodiversity loss and the adaptation with its outcome by supporting and facilitating the national and local plans and providing human, financial and informational resources sufficient for this end.

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to affirm the importance of the support and enhancement provided to the United Nations bodies concerned to study the risks affecting the world biodiversity and their impact on the human community; and also to affirm the importance of developing its capabilities to discover the best means and mechanisms to deal with risks and identify its expected volume. The United Nations Agreement on Biodiversity provides the proper for holding substantive deliberations to ensure reaching appropriate solutions for the biodiversity loss. We hope the State Parties to the Agreement will be able, during their 10th meeting to be held in Nagoya in October, to review the progress achieved in implementing their national strategies and plans of actions for the implementation of the agreement; to adopt an agenda for the period extending until 2020; and to adopt an international system to access genetic resources and share benefits.

Due to the importance my country attaches to preserving biodiversity, it is keen to include, in its development plans, several legislations in the field of safeguarding biodiversity and nature conservation. These legislations include hunting, protection of forests and pastures, exploitation of marine resources, securing agricultural lands and the protection of animals and trees. In fact, Libya also established a body dealing with environmental matters and biosafety.

In conclusion, I would like to affirm that the phenomenon of biodiversity is a long-term challenge for all countries despite the differences in the degrees of loss due to geographical reasons and financial and technical capacities. However, the experts are aware that the concerns and the issues of the poor and the upcoming risks threatening them due to biodiversity will have serious impacts on economic and social sectors which motivate the development process and which will eventually affect all other States. The best example for that is the impact of the issues and challenges of illegal immigration.

Thank you Mr. Chairman