

**Statement by the Netherlands**

**Mrs Anita Wouters, Director-General for biodiversity**

**UNGA High Level special session on biodiversity**

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1. Thank you co-chair. Honourable co-chairs, your excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,
2. In 2002 the Johannesburg Conference decided on an ambitious goal, to significantly reduce the loss of biodiversity by 2010.  
We have now reached 2010, and there is still a lot to do. But we should also value what has been achieved and build on it.
3. The Netherlands believes that it is of utmost importance to broaden the commitment further, and in particular to join forces with the private sector.  
Integration of biodiversity concerns into economic activities is key to sustainable solutions for the present overconsumption of our natural resources.
4. It is clear that policy measures to implement the Strategic Plan of the CBD require adequate financial means. Striking the right balance between ambition and financial feasibility may not be easy.
5. In addition to devoting 0.7% of GDP to ODA, the Netherlands traditionally devotes an additional 0.1% of GDP to international support for environmental objectives including biodiversity since the Rio conventions. In addition to public funding, there are

promising opportunities to increase the contributions from private sources.

6. The Netherlands takes a special interest in the issue of economic valuation of biodiversity and ecosystems. We support the project "The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity" (TEEB), and are keen that COP10 will take the right decisions to continue this important work.
7. The Netherlands, like all countries present here, attaches great importance to the achievement of an ABS-protocol. We need to be aware that all countries around the world are both provider and user of genetic resources. These resources are rightfully "the sources of our existence", as we have called our national ABS policy.
8. In Nagoya we have only two weeks to come to a conclusion on this crucial issue, for biodiversity and for mankind. We stand ready to work together in a constructive and pragmatic way to resolve the outstanding issues and conclude a meaningful Protocol.
9. Thank you very much.