

## Opening Speech 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, Japan, 2010)

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*Address*

*Words of Courtesy*

In a few minutes we will elect you, Minister Matsumoto, as President of the 10th CBD COP and I am sure that under your able leadership this Conference and the following two years will be a huge success! Progress is needed indeed – as we are still facing an unpredictable destruction of nature on our one planet. Germany as presidency of COP 9 hands over the gavel to Japan in autumn of the historic and symbolic year 2010 – the International Year on Biodiversity. This is the year that was also set by heads of states and governments to achieve the so-called 2010 target to at least slow down the loss of biodiversity. It is now obvious that the world community has failed to meet this target. We are still losing biodiversity – the richness, the beauty and the capital of our planet - each and every day. Virgin forests the size of Greece are cut down every year. Coral reefs are under climate stress and will disappear if we do not act appropriately against climate change.

Of course we also have a number of positive developments: Some regions were able to reduce deforestation. There is an enhanced engagement of countries and regions to increase the number and the management quality of protected areas. More and more consumers request products and services from sustainable and nature friendly sources. Many countries have also developed national biodiversity strategies addressing biodiversity as a cross-cutting issue relevant to many policies.

Passing the dedicated responsibility to the next presidency is a moment of looking backwards at what has been achieved. Germany was privileged to be accompanied by many supporters on our way to Bonn and from there to Nagoya. From the very beginning it was our desire to get biodiversity higher on the global political agenda. How would we achieve to make decision makers in politics as well as in the private sector better understand that talking about biodiversity is not about something nice to have but that it is about the base of our societies, of our economies, of our culture or – in a nutshell – about the future of our life on earth?

One tool we identified was a study on the economic dimension of nature. Often we discuss the costs of nature protection, the costs of holding the loss of biodiversity. But it appeared to be much more relevant to talk about the costs of non-action, the costs of losing biodiversity and ecosystems. Today this approach is widely known as TEEB – The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity. We are happy that we could convince as a first step at that time the G8+7 Environmental Ministers Meeting in Potsdam to politically support the idea of such a study and that later on we could engage Pavan Sukhdev as study leader – not only a brilliant economist but also a wonderful communicator. I am sure that with TEEB we opened the door to decision

makers especially in the economic and financial sector. Therefore, I do hope that the TEEB approach will stay relevant for the global biodiversity policy ahead.

Another key for an enhanced political relevance to biodiversity issues is the establishment of a science-policy interface. I am glad that after only three intergovernmental consultation meetings under the leadership of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) an agreement for the establishment of the “International Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services” was achieved! I am sure that the new Platform will have a similar positive impact on global biodiversity policies as the IPCC had on global climate policies. Germany will stay committed to IPBES, and we do hope that the new body can start to work in the course of next year!

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are at the beginning of COP 10, a conference of historical importance for the future of this convention. Among the many important issues is the final negotiation of an ABS-Protocol as well as the adoption of the strategic plan and the appropriate financing will be in the core of next week’s negotiations. As outgoing presidency we did our best to facilitate for common ground solutions on these issues.

Since COP 8 in Curitiba, Germany has been committed to the key responsibility to fulfill the Curitiba mandate for the establishment of an ABS regime and to adopt this regime by COP 10. We are and we remain convinced that an ABS Protocol is the appropriate form for such a regime and that 18 years after Rio there is no way but to reach a decision on this important issue. My country believes that future economies will increasingly depend on renewable resources. Products and services will be based on what nature provides and renews. Apart from nature conservation and the sustainable use of resources, it is of utmost importance to learn from biodiversity, to adapt solutions from nature that have been developed over millions of years, and to transfer these solutions into technologies and products. But how can we expect that this can be successfully done if we don’t apply fundamental requirements of fairness? How can we expect that those who host important parts of our planet’s richness provide genetic resources without clear and reliable rules for the sharing of benefits that arise from such resources? What sounds simple and obvious is not if you get deeper into the details of course. But following the process now over years I am glad to say: Now it is the time to decide. And this COP has all the means, possibilities and also the duty to finalize the negotiations on the protocol and adopt it on Friday 29th of October! As promised by the Co-Chairs of the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Working Group and by the outgoing presidency, there is a full-fledged draft protocol in front of you.

The other important issue is the new strategic plan – the global biodiversity strategy! Again – following the discussions in SBSTTA and the preparatory work done by the Working Group on Implementation – everything needed is on the table. Scientists and negotiators are in agreement on the substance of what has to be done to make the next decade a more successful one than the last to keep the richness and the beauty of our planet. The draft global biodiversity strategy consists of ambitious and policy-integrated targets with only a few and definitely solvable issues for discussion which are bracketed in the text. But still there is one fundamental difficulty to overcome – and that is how to balance the level of ambitions on the substance with the level of ambition on mobilizing financial resources to meet the targets of the global biodiversity strategy. If we don’t want to produce the next failure in achieving

18.10.2010

biodiversity targets there is a need for an enhanced financing for biodiversity. This is the duty of each party to its own country but it is also a responsibility for donor countries to enhance their financial support for biodiversity in developing countries. I am very happy to reconfirm Germany's commitment to substantially contribute to this challenge: German Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel announced 2008 in Bonn that an additional support of 500 mn euros will be provided for biodiversity in developing countries until 2012 and that starting from 2012 this support will amount to 500 mn euros per year. Many projects have been started since the last COP, most of them through Germany's development cooperation (GTZ). You will find information material on the work of GTZ on the information desks. Let me also mention the generous support granted by Norway on REDD+ which amounts to 500 mn dollars per year. REDD+ is a perfect tool to synergize between Climate Change Mitigation and Biodiversity.

In this regard, it is evident that positive results in Nagoya will have tremendous supportive impact on the climate negotiations in Cancún/Mexico in December.

*Words of thank*