



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1 October 2010

Excellency,

In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 64/203 adopted on 21 December 2009, the General Assembly convened a High-level Meeting on Biodiversity on 22 September 2010.

I have the pleasure to share with you the summary of the High-level Meeting, which I presented to Member States during the closing plenary. In accordance with paragraph 23(e) of the General Assembly resolution 64/203, this summary will be transmitted, under my authority, to the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to be held in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

10/1/10
10/1/10

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deiss', written in a cursive style.

Joseph Deiss
President of the General Assembly

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON BIODIVERSITY**

22 September 2010, New York

PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY

Today, as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity, world leaders met for the first time for the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Biodiversity and reaffirmed the political will to reverse the alarming loss of biodiversity occurring throughout our planet.

I am very pleased to present to you a summary of today's meaningful discussions, which I will transmit to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP10) to be held next month in Nagoya, Japan.

First, Member States and other participants emphasized the importance of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, especially in poverty eradication. They drew attention to the fact that continued biodiversity loss can have particularly adverse impact on the poor and other populations that depend on natural resources such as for fisheries and agriculture.

In order to protect biodiversity and its many services, including clean water, medicine and buffer against natural disasters, Member States and other participants noted that it is important to fully achieve the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In this regard, they attached great significance to securing successful outcomes at COP10. This meeting will address three inter-connected issues: access to and benefit-sharing of genetic resources; post-2010 strategic plan for biodiversity; and international support for the implementation of biodiversity strategies in developing countries. They recognised that progress on one would depend upon progress on the other two issues.

While noting the progress made to date for the negotiation of the draft Protocol on access to and benefit-sharing of genetic resources, Member States and other participants shared the concern that some issues are still outstanding. They called for a stronger political impetus and flexibility by all Parties in the negotiations to ensure the adoption of an effective Protocol at the Nagoya meeting.

COP10 presents an important opportunity to adopt a post-2010 strategic plan that contains ambitious, measurable and time-bound biodiversity targets for 2020. This plan would provide a common framework for action on biodiversity at the international, regional, national and local levels, and across various issues, from terrestrial and marine protected areas to combating of ocean acidification. In order to translate the strategic plan into concrete outcome, it needs to be integrated into national biodiversity targets and strategies. A United Nations Decade for

Biodiversity as well as the multi-year plan of action for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development would support the implementation of the new strategic plan.

Furthermore, noting the important linkage between scientific knowledge to effective policy-making, Member States and other participants stressed the importance of establishing an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and welcomed the progress achieved at the UNEP-facilitated intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder meeting held in June 2010 in Busan, Republic of Korea.

The true economic values of biodiversity and the ecosystem services it underpins are now being identified to their full extent. Member States and other participants considered it important that such investigation continue as a matter of priority. They called for strengthening the biodiversity and economy nexus by incorporating the true values of biodiversity into economic theory, financial planning and investments in all sectors, as well as in policy and planning processes at all levels. Green economy, The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) and payments for ecosystem services were mentioned as important concepts and initiatives.

Member states and other participants also recognised that biodiversity and healthy ecosystems are an essential part of solution to the challenges of climate change. They noted that there are substantial benefits to be gained from the coherent implementation of the three Rio conventions as well as other biodiversity-related conventions. For example, initiatives for reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) could provide co-benefits for biodiversity and local livelihoods. The upcoming Nagoya and Cancun meetings later this year and the Rio+20 Conference in 2012 provide timely opportunities to ensure that measures taken under the related Conventions are mutually supportive.

Recognising that many countries lack the resources and capabilities to effectively implement their biodiversity strategies and commitments, Member States and participants called for bold action to ensure that these countries have access to financial resources and technology transfer. They also called for increased capacity building and scientific and technical cooperation.

In addition, Member States and other participants emphasized the need to mobilize civil society and the private sector. Indigenous and local communities and women and youth should be fully involved in the implementation of the new biodiversity strategic plan.

Finally, noting the Geneva Call for Action issued by the past and future presidencies of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Member States and participants noted that if current rates of biodiversity loss are not reversed, there will be drastic consequences for human societies.

They recognized the need for coordinated and urgent action across all sectors of government and society to address the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss. There is a need to reform our means of production, consumption and economic growth to ensure that we live within the ecological limits. Together, we can find ways to protect the "Mother Earth" and live in harmony with nature.