

Statement by

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**Statement by Denmark**  
**High-Level Meeting on Biodiversity**  
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*Check against delivery*

Your Excellencies, dear colleagues,

The global 2010 biodiversity target has not been achieved. Biodiversity - from the highest mountains to the deepest seas - is being reduced and is under increased pressure. Our biodiversity represents the very foundation for our societies. It also represents a delicate balance. If tipped – it will have severe consequences. For our nature. For our economies. For our way of living.

We are facing a global problem. What we need are global solutions. And we need them now. Time has come for us to act. At COP10 in Japan - only a month from now - we must stand up to our responsibilities as leaders. At COP10 we must deliver the deal that will set the world back on track. That will enable us to look back in 2020 and state – that we *did* turn around the development. That we *did* stop the decline in our biodiversity. So what do we need from COP10? Let me offer you my personal view on some of the important elements.

First of all we need a compass to steer by. From COP10 we need a Strategic Plan setting out the targets for our effort towards 2020. The targets must be clear, concrete, measureable and communicable. The targets should serve as solid reference for monitoring of progress. And they should allow us to undertake timely and adaptive measures to achieve them. A strategic plan with clear and concrete targets will reflect our real commitment. And it will enable the global society to address the challenge ahead.

Second – a legally binding Protocol on access and benefit sharing *must* be part of the outcome from COP10. A clear, fair and effective ABS protocol is a very key feature in our collective efforts to address the biodiversity challenge. We need an ABS protocol to motivate conservation and sustainable use of the genetic resources. And to provide for fair and equitable benefit sharing. And we need the protocol to enhance legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users. An ABS protocol will benefit all stakeholders involved.

Now - my third and final point. Biodiversity should no longer be an issue only dealt with by government officials, academics and politicians. Biodiversity concerns all of us. It affects every person around the world. And every person and entity bears a responsibility for tackling the problems. Policies and plans are to be turned into practice.

We therefore need to foster commitments and collective action. What we need is to mobilize the civil society in the struggle for biodiversity. We need the public in general to engage directly and to feel collective responsibility. We need NGO's, think tanks and citizens to raise their voices and demand their politicians to prioritize the biodiversity agenda. We need industry, farmers, fishermen – whose economic foundation relies upon our biodiversity - to take on their responsibility and act. And we need academia – universities and scientists to engage in mapping the problems and the solutions. We cannot afford a gap between high level policy negotiations and the actions on the ground. We have to think hard, exchange experiences and do more and better in this regard. This we must focus on both up to and after COP 10.

Mr. Chairman,

COP10 presents us with a unique chance to address the challenges of biodiversity. Time has come to act. And we – the politicians – bear the responsibility. Let us act together for a better future.

I am looking forward to a productive and successful meeting in Nagoya.

Thank you.