

**STATEMENT**

by

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**at the High Level Meeting as a  
contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity**

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**- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -**

Mr. President,  
Mr. Secretary General,  
Your Excellencies

When governments agreed to the Convention on Biological Diversity, they made a great leap of faith. The very concept of biodiversity was at the time hardly known outside the scientific community. The idea of sustainable use was little more than a vague principle, based on instinct rather than mature science. And it was clear from the outset that the principles of access and benefit sharing would be technically difficult to implement.

No wonder then that we meet again, to evaluate progress, make adjustments, and put in place new mechanisms to ensure the fulfilment of the CBD objectives. One such juncture was the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, where the 2010 target was endorsed, and where a seed was planted to negotiate the Nagoya Protocol on ABS.

The 2010 target was a success in terms of communication. It was a success, also in terms of mobilising political will. But it was clearly not enough in terms of achieving the necessary results on the ground.

Mr President,

When I look at the outcome of the Nairobi negotiations on the CBD Strategic Plan, it is clear to me that the world has drawn correct conclusions from the past decade. There need to be a global plan of action to save all humans, poor as well as rich, from the prospect of living in a failed ecosystem.

We need to recognise the ecological limits, and realise that principles of sound economy applies also to the natural capital.

We need to put a price tag to ecosystem services in order to motivate investments in a resilient green infrastructure that can sustain resilient societies.

We need to find and make use of all opportunities for synergies between inter-related policy areas, and base our decision on robust knowledge.

We need therefore to make use of the findings of studies such as 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, and

as a matter of urgency, we need to take the decision, here in New York, to establish the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, as a multi-disciplinary and cross-sectoral panel for sustaining life on Earth.

And we need to work together to ensure that all countries have the necessary means.

There need to be commitments of governments, but also a strategy for facilitating ethically and ecologically sound engagement of the private sector.

In this way, Nagoya can bring hope for a prosperous future.

Thank you Mr President.