

Translation

The Federal Republic of Germany  
The Federal Chancellor

December 2010

### **Message**

Let me extend my warmest greetings to all the guests of and participants in the Conference “Biodiversity and the UN Millennium Development Goals: Challenges for Research and Action”.

The International Year of Biodiversity 2010 proclaimed by the United Nations triggered high expectations – and rightly so. We are talking after all about nothing less than maintaining our key sources of life and prosperity. That is why I am pleased about the major progress made at the Biodiversity Conference in Nagoya. We now have an ambitious strategy for the protection of biological diversity for 2011 to 2020. What is more, internationally binding rules for the use of genetic resources have been laid down for the first time after many years of negotiation.

The Conference in Nagoya brought to a close Germany’s two-year Presidency of the Convention. Looking at the results, we feel confirmed in our commitment internationally. The global community agreed on what steps need to be taken, but now it is a matter of taking these steps together. Here, together also means politics and science. After all, in a sphere as complex as that of biological diversity, politicians are dependent on the findings and advice from the world of science. We all know that research is building bridges to the future.

Thus I very much welcome the fact that you – internationally renowned scientists – have accepted the invitation issued by leading institutions in Germany and France to this important Conference in Frankfurt am Main. We need to step up research on biodiversity and make it more effective so that, spanning science, politics and society, we can together bring about protection of biological diversity which is as permanent as possible.

This is the aim of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), just like the role played by the IPCC when it comes to climate protection. A call goes out to the United Nations to set up this body as quickly as possible. Germany and France are pulling in the same direction here. I would like to encourage you all to continue to engage intensively in this dialogue.

I wish you all a successful Conference with stimulating discussions and informative talks.

(sgd) Angela Merkel