



The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Mr. Achim Steiner, said, “Biodiversity is our economic foundation. We have a misdirected economic compass—we have arranged our economies in a way that they destroy their environmental foundations. We are burning money.”

The Prime Minister of Canada the Honourable Stephen Harper stated that the Canadian people were proud to host the only Rio convention located in North America.

Jose Manuel Barroso, the President of the European Commission, applauded the financial contributions of Germany and stated that it reflected the European Union strategy for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In his remarks to the ministers and in support of the objectives of the Convention, United Nations General Assembly President Srgjan Kerim called for a meeting of Heads of State and Government to spur action during the 2010 High-Level Segment of the General Assembly.

Ahmed Djoghlaif, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity applauded the leadership of Germany, stating, “For an exceptional biodiversity challenge, an exceptional meeting. For an exceptional meeting, an exceptiona