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**Remarks at the
UNDP and Government of Malaysia
National Seminar on Biodiversity 2010
(MyBio-D 2010)**

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Yang Berhormat Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Joseph Kurup, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia

Dato' Zoal Azha, Secretary General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment,

Dato' Aziyah Mohamed, Deputy Secretary-General I, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Distinguished guests,
Members of the media,
Ladies and Gentleman,

Good afternoon and welcome.

On behalf of UNDP Malaysia, I would like to thank the Honourable Deputy Minister, YB Tan Sri datuk Seri Panglima Joseph Kurup, for joining us this afternoon at this National Seminar on Biodiversity 2010. I would also like to welcome and thank Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, the Executive Secretary of the CBD for being with us today.

I welcome all participants from government agencies, the private sector and NGOs to this valuable dialogue. Your presence here indicates your commitment to the management and protection of the rich biodiversity of Malaysia. UNDP always encourages policy dialogues such as this one in order

to provide a platform for the more meaningful engagement of various stakeholders who should be involved in both the formulation and eventual implementation of government policies.

The United Nations declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. It is both a celebration of life on earth and of the value that biodiversity provides in our lives. The world has been invited to take action in 2010 to safeguard the rich variety of life on earth i.e. our biodiversity. I am glad to note that the Government of Malaysia through the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment is implementing several activities with this objective in mind, including this National seminar.

UNDP is committed to building the capacities of developing countries and economies in transition in a manner which enables them to manage their biodiversity in line with their own priorities and needs. Through the provision of sound policy advice, and the development and implementation of programmes that both help demonstrate sound biodiversity management practices on-the-ground and strengthen the capacities to sustain them, UNDP assists more than 140 countries to conserve and sustainably use their biodiversity, and to secure ecosystem services that are vital to human welfare and their national and local development efforts.

Most of the biodiversity in the world resides outside protected areas - on lands and in waters dedicated to various economic production activities, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, mining and tourism. The integration, or 'mainstreaming', of biodiversity-management objectives into these sectors,

therefore, constitutes a key vehicle for achieving sound biodiversity management. While effective government or independent regulation will remain key, if the industries related to these sectors see biodiversity maintenance as a negative balance sheet item, then ecosystems will likely be transformed and their biodiversity lost. Thus, communities and businesses need to be persuaded about the link between the value of ecosystem goods and services, and sustainable economic development; we hope that the 'mainstreaming' projects by UNDP help them understand this link.

The link between biodiversity and climate change is also very vital. UNDP is happy to note the recent formation, in Norway, of an international partnership to expedite financing for forest-related climate mitigation in developing countries. Under the agreement reached there, a voluntary partnership between 58 donor and developing countries will result in an investment of US \$4 billion over the next three years in projects to reduce carbon dioxide emissions associated with forestry practices in developing countries. This agreement represents a major step towards the establishment of an international REDD+ mechanism (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Such a mechanism is critical, and the international community will especially focus on it this year, as it reviews the MDGs and debates, and hopefully agrees, how we can speed up progress towards achieving them. If we can get a win-win for both development and climate change mitigation and adaptation from Partnerships such as REDD+, we will truly be achieving multiple objectives.

In line with this, UNDP encourages the government of Malaysia to seek participation in REDD activities. We stand ready to help.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The UNDP Malaysia Country Office will continue to prioritize environmental projects in our Country Programme through our Energy and Environment Cluster. Such support is consistent with the government of Malaysia's own efforts to protect and conserve the environment as signaled in the 10th Malaysia Plan which was announced earlier this month. UNDP is already supporting a number of projects, with a value of approximately USD30 million, which seek to protect the biodiversity of Malaysia and address climate change issues under the 3rd Global Environment Facility (GEF). We are currently also actively engaged with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and other stakeholders in the development of and implementation of new projects under the 4th GEF with a total value of around USD 16 million. Current UNDP supported on-going and pipe-line projects include:

- Conserving Marine Biodiversity through Enhanced Marine Park Management and Inclusive Sustainable Island Development
- Conservation of Biological Diversity through Improved Forest Planning Tools
- Enhancing the effectiveness and financing of Protected Areas in Malaysia

- Biodiversity Conservation in Multiple use forest landscapes in Sabah; and
- Capacity Development for the Formulation of a Policy and Regulatory Framework for Access and Benefit-sharing of Biological Resources in Malaysia

I would like to thank all the participants who are here despite their busy schedules because of their genuine desire to contribute to the success of this seminar. Allow me to conclude by wishing all of you useful and productive discussions. Finally, I would like to congratulate the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment for their commitment to the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, which is demonstrated by actions such as support for this Seminar.

Thank you.