



**OPENING REMARKS OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, MR. BRAULIO
FERREIRA DE SOUZA DIAS**

on the occasion of the

**SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON FINANCIAL REPORTING AND RESOURCE
MOBILIZATION FOR ANGLOPHONE AFRICA**

24-25 November 2015

Entebbe, Uganda

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends:

I have the pleasure to communicate remarks on behalf of the CBD Executive Secretary Mr. Braulio Dias. Welcome to all of you.

Let me first thank the Government of the Uganda for graciously accepting to host this workshop. I would also like to express our appreciation to the European Union and the Government of Japan for their financial support to hold this workshop.

As many of you are aware, a major achievement of COP11 and COP12 has been the agreement reached on resource mobilization for the implementation of the strategic plan on biodiversity, in particular the adoption of a set of global targets for increasing funding from all sources, and of a reporting framework in order to monitor progress in achieving these targets. This agreement recognizes the critical need for substantially increasing investments in biodiversity globally from all sources. We know from recent assessments that a significant funding gap remains for countries to achieve the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Targets.

Amongst other things, these global targets aim to significantly increase the number of countries that assessed their biodiversity-related expenditures, identified their funding needs, gaps, and priorities, and prepared national financial plans for biodiversity by 2015. National governments throughout the globe are now working towards translating the global Strategic Plan into national policies, in particular by revising and updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. However, Parties to the CBD recognized that revised NBSAPs need to be underpinned by a comprehensive national Resource Mobilisation Strategy for their effective implementation. Moreover, the technical tools that are necessary to develop national finance plans will also help to report and gauge progress made against the set of global finance targets set by the Conference of the Parties.

These developments mirror similar trends at the UN in relation to financing for development and the means of implementation for achieving the sustainable development goals, and in particular the recent adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Sustainable



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Development Finance.

Implementing the targets for resource mobilization is a significant challenge in particular for developing countries and much effort will be required so that COP13 next year can review progress and consider the need for appropriate action.

Against this background, an international expert workshop, held earlier this year in Mexico City, came up with guidance on a certain number on methodological issues associated with completing the financial reporting framework, while recognizing remaining challenges as the methodological work is far from being complete. The present workshop forms part of a whole series of subregional workshops to support countries and provide them with the guidance and good practice examples identified by experts at the Mexico workshop.

In this connection, my thanks go also to our established partner in resource mobilization, the Biodiversity Finance Initiative of the United Development Programme (UNDP). The BIOFIN initiative was a strong partner in organizing the Mexico workshop and provides significant support in preparing its guidance report.

One of the conclusions of the Mexico workshop was the need to use existing statistical frameworks and data collection efforts to the extent feasible, with a view to create synergy and avoid the duplication of work. It is with this in mind that we also invited nominations of experts for from the statistical or finance offices of your countries, and it is my pleasure to extend a special welcome to those representatives that are with us today.

With this, I look forward to fruitful discussions in the coming two days.

Thank you.