

OPENING STATEMENT

SBSTTA 17 MEETING

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen!

A very warm good morning to you all.

Kiribati is speaking on behalf of the Asia and the Pacific Region.

Mr. President,

Asia and the Pacific Group welcome these agenda items and wish also to acknowledge the excellent presentation of all the presenters and panel speakers for their informative exchange. These have been extremely useful and helpful ~~to Parties~~.

Our AP region would like to highlight some key issues as per the discussions we have now on these.

Firstly, is on the issue of Capacity Building & Capacity Constraints.

Having the necessary capacity building and financial resources are always crucial in the Asia Pacific region, in developing our regional and national capabilities to effectively implement the three objectives of the convention and the ~~Biodiversity~~-Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 201~~0~~-2020 and achieving the Aichi Targets.

Capacity building and capacity constraints in developing countries are prominent issues in the Asia Pacific region. Countries in our region are diverse with different stages of development and with unique capacity building needs and capacity constraints existing. These continue to impede national efforts, in effectively implementing the Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2010-2020 and achieving the Aichi Target

Many of the things that are related to implementing the ~~Biodiversity~~-Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and achieving the Aichi Targets such as remote sensing are available and accessible but to a limited and certain extent to all developing countries. Much of the technologies and expertise to fully utilize this tool are limited due to capacity constraints. In these contexts, our region invites and urges the Secretariat and donor countries and relevant organizations to explore innovative ways and means to provide relevant support to our countries in our region on such areas.

The Asia Pacific region would request and urge developed Parties and those with relevant technical capacities to explore and partner with our countries through innovative ways and means that offer practical and cost efficient and effective solutions to consider and address capacity building and capacity constraint needs. This would contribute to leveraging, increasing and enhancing our countries' capacities to better implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020 and achieving the Aichi Targets.

Secondly,

The Asia Pacific region calls for new and additional, adequate, predictable, and effective financial mechanisms and technical supports and timely resources mobilization. In this SBSTTA meeting, the AP region continue to urge developed and donors Parties to consider and recommend innovative cost effective and efficient practical solutions that are durable to developing countries unique situations, to assist and enhance their capacities to progress the work required to effectively implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020.

Over the weekend some of our countries in our region are able to attend and participate in a workshop organized by GEO BON and are appreciative of the opportunity provided to enable the participation of the developing countries from Asia Pacific region.

We invite GEO BON to take notes of the different stages of development and different capacity constraints' needs of our diverse region, to explore and facilitate supports for the establishment of such in the Asia Pacific region. We also invites GEO BON to assist developing countries in building relevant capacities towards aggregating and disaggregating global data for countries in our region to utilize at the national and sub-national levels to initiate and start the process for monitoring biodiversity status and trends.

We are also aware that some countries have already developed robust monitoring systems that can provide useful indicators for tracking biodiversity change and providing useful indicator towards achieving the 2020 Biodiversity Aichi targets, the Asia Pacific region would very much like where possible such capacity be shared to our region.

We invite and urge scientific bodies and organizations and developed nations to partner with countries in the AP region, in relevant areas of support that they have to offer INNOVATIVELY to explore practical and cost effective and efficient solutions to the unique problems and situations of our countries.

Finally, we also invite and urge regional/international organizations to collaborate with CBD Secretariat and relevant research and monitoring institutions in an effort to strengthen capacity of the parties of the regions and to bridge data gaps and customizing tools and methodologies that will support and enhance our capabilities to effectively implement the Biodiversity Strategic Plan and achieving the Aichi Targets.

I thank you for your kind attention!