

Marshall Islands is taking the floor on behalf of the Pacific Island Countries present at this SBSTTA 17 meeting, namely Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Tonga, and Solomon Islands and wish to align our statement to that of the Asia Pacific Region.

Mr. Chairman,

All four goals are important to Pacific Island Countries and we would like to highlight some of the key issues, which we have identified of great importance to our Pacific Island nations.

Capacity building needs to be specific and targeted to enhance cooperation, support, full and effective participation at the local communities, national and regional level. Capacity building should be innovative and practical to accommodate the special needs by island countries at the local community level.

Limited human and financial resources at the local and national government level are of concern. These continue to impede national efforts, therefore, the need for support and assistance is much required in Pacific Islands Countries to enable meaningful, cost effective and on the ground implementation, related to relevant goals.

Mr. Chairman,

The Pacific Island Countries calls for new and additional, adequate, predictable, and effective financial mechanisms and timely resources mobilization. Altogether, these are crucial for our Pacific Island Countries in order to effectively implement the Aichi Targets. The Pacific island countries would like to urge donors and Parties to provide adequate sustainable financial resources for the successful attainment of the CBD objectives.

We urge those who work closely with the development of the Global Biodiversity Outlook 4 to explore Pacific Regional agencies such as SPREP, SPC and FFA that maintain and store Pacific Island Countries data to address data gaps that may not be reflected under national reporting.

The Pacific Island Countries welcomes the progress made to date on GEOBON and we urge GEOBON to consider establishing the same process in the Pacific Island Countries and to explore working in partnership with Pacific regional agencies.

We look forward towards programs that would contribute to said agenda items, as well as hearing from other countries on their views and experiences.

Thank you