

Thank you Chair

- Canada would like to thank the Secretariat for the thought provoking documents, which were prepared for this meeting, and to all of the speakers this morning for their excellent presentations.
- With regards to agenda item 3, Canada agrees that there exists a substantial body of policy tools, guidance and methodologies to support implementation of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and attainment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
- Canada acknowledges that the uptake of tools, guidance and methodologies developed by the CBD has been variable: some tools have been taken up at the global level with significant impact, others at the national or sub-national level, inspiring national and sub-national actions and of course a few have had less traction, reinforcing the need for further capacity building.
- Perhaps the most useful tools, from Canada's viewpoint, have been the development of targets, both the 2010 target and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as they have aided in mainstreaming biodiversity and in inspiring Parties and many others to action (including Canada), although we do recognize that to make these targets useful we will need clear and credible indicators to measure progress, as highlighted by Bob Scholes and Marc Paganini, this morning.
- For well over a year, all the relevant federal departments and provincial, and territorial governments, have been working collaboratively to develop 2020 biodiversity goals and targets for Canada.
- Based on the results of questionnaires and focussed discussions with stakeholders and National Aboriginal Organizations, Canada has revised and refined its proposed goals, targets and indicators. When they are finalized they will represent the aspirations of a wide range of Canadian organizations.

- Canada would also like to emphasize the importance of subnational governments in implementing the CBD. Ontario, with more than 900,000 square kilometers of natural cover, provides one of several examples of the impact that provinces can have. Ontario has its own Biodiversity Strategy that identifies goals, objectives and actions and includes 15 targets based on the framework of the Aichi Targets. Its implementation depends on action by all partners that created the strategy, including conservation organizations, industry, Aboriginal groups, government and the academic community.
- Although the CBD Secretariat has identified gaps in tools, guidance and methodologies for all targets, Canada would like to emphasize that implementation of existing tools and methodologies is a greater priority than the creation of new tools and methodologies.
- New tool and methodology development should focus on the most pressing gaps, which Canada perceives as:
  - i. Measuring the targets in Goal A.
  - ii. Target 15, which is concerned with ecological restoration and ecosystem resilience.
  - iii. Access and use of traditional knowledge, innovations and practises in decision-making for conservation and sustainable customary use;
  - iv. Tools and methodologies to address genetic resources in Target 13 that are culturally and socially important, but are not used for food, agriculture or forestry.
- Canada agrees with the presentation that there are gaps in observations, data systems and indicators to assess progress towards the Aichi targets.
- Canada would like to encourage the CBD to continue to collaborate with expert bodies, such as the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, GEO BON and FAO, to fill these gaps. Canada would particularly like to acknowledge development of the Biodiversity Barometer by BIP.

This is a much-needed measure of awareness and attitudes about biodiversity.

- The Canadian Environmental Sustainability Indicators initiative reports regularly on a small suite of environmental indicators. These include indicators of conservation (e.g. habitat protection, conservation status of wild species, bird trends) and sustainable use (e.g. fish stocks and fish and timber harvest).
- With regards to item 4, Canada recognizes that providing an assessment of the effects of measures taken to implement the Convention is considered a core mandate of the SBSTTA. Canada also recognizes this is a difficult task.
- Therefore, Canada would like to suggest that a pilot study approach would be useful, in which an assessment of one type of measure (e.g. invasive alien species control) or one thematic area (e.g. ecological restoration) or one case study (e.g. coral reefs) is used to demonstrate a range of possible options for assessing the effects of specific measures.
- As 20 percent of Parties provided a self-assessment of their progress towards implementation of the Convention, in their 4<sup>th</sup> national reports (including Canada), Canada proposes that the Secretariat compile information on the methodologies that those 20 Parties used and make it available to a future meeting of the SBSTTA.
- We will provide specific examples of how Canada has implemented the Convention in agenda items on each goal.

Thank you, Madam/Mr. Chair.