

Intervention by the EU on target 10/ Goal B

Thank you Chair

The EU would like to make a suggestion in relation to Target 10 which is due in 2015, which means 15 months from now.

This is not meant to prioritise this target, but to remind of its extreme urgency.

Scientific findings give reason for great concern for the situation of coral reefs all around the world and other ecosystems impacted by ocean acidification.

In May this year the CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere exceeded 400ppm. Last time the CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere was this high was in geological times quite before human beings evolved on the planet.

Increasing CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere aggravates ocean acidification.

In addition the discussion on the first chapter of IPCC V released a few weeks ago revealed that the oceans may absorb even more heat.

Increasing water temperature and ocean acidification are detrimental for coral reefs and threaten their existence.

Under these circumstances the achievement of target 10 is crucial not only for coral reefs, but also and the more so for the human communities which directly or indirectly depend on coral reefs for their livelihoods.

The information provided in documents UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/3 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTAA/17/2/Add 2 shows that on-going activities while laudable and yielding positive results are overall yet too modest.

The GBO4 scenarios confirm the urgency of the topic and also highlight that if we are going to reverse this trend, we should do it as soon as possible.

Therefore EU suggests for SBSTTA 17 to consider either a scientific conclusion to be considered during SBSTTA 18 when revising the work plan on coral bleaching or a draft recommendation for COP 12 highlighting the urgency of target 10 or both.

A dedicated pilot study on coral reefs to assess the effects of the types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Conventions as suggested yesterday by Canada could be useful.