

Statement on Strategic Goal A

We think that under the CBD many valuable tools, guidelines, principles, work programmes etc. have been adopted that are very useful and instrumental in implementing the Strategic Plan and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. We therefore would like to support the idea France has put forward to develop a checklist or manual on how to make best use these tools in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and its specific targets. Such a manual could also include relevant tools and instruments from other conventions and agreements. This would also contribute to enhance synergies in the implementation of biodiversity relevant provisions.

Like Canada and Brazil we think that the targets on biodiversity are the most important tool that the convention has adopted. These targets are key in bringing biodiversity higher on the political agendas and in mainstreaming biodiversity into other sectors.

Austria belongs to the group of Parties that is in the process of developing a new national biodiversity strategy. Our national strategy will be accompanied by a “priority action plan for species protection”. We put great emphasis on ensuring participation and involvement of all actors and stakeholders concerned in establishing our new national targets, objectives and actions for biodiversity. It is a joint exercise also aiming at creating ownership for the strategy by all sectors. Our work is guided by the Aichi Targets but also the six Targets and 20 Actions provided by the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2020. Next spring our National Biodiversity Commission will hopefully adopt the new strategy. The Commission – set up in 1995 - is also being renewed and strengthened with regard to its tasks and responsibilities related to the implementation of our national strategy and achieving our national biodiversity targets.

Finally, we also think that Target 1 is pivotal for achieving all our biodiversity targets. In 2009 my government launched a national biodiversity campaign called “Living diversity”. It is still going on. It is not only aiming at strengthening awareness on biodiversity at all levels, but also at bringing the business of biodiversity on the ground, to the people. For this partnerships are being established with NGOs, the business sector, landowners etc. . Furthermore, a local biodiversity network is being built up. In order to become member of the network, cities and communalities have to adopt local biodiversity programmes. The campaign focuses on 20 key species which all got prominent ambassadors who raise their voice for biodiversity. The 21st key species is the human being - We want to bring across the message that biodiversity is about us, it is about people, biodiversity is our life insurance.