

Th. Madam Chair,

This is a general statement.

Allow me, Madam Chair, first of all to wish Aid ul Mubarak to all colleagues coming from Islamic countries around the world. Colleagues, I wish a very good health and prosperity to you and your families.

Coming from Bosnia-Herzegovina, country with high respect to whole diversity of cultures, I am expressing the same wish to all colleagues and participants, sitting in this room.

To realize those wishes, probably there is no better place and better action that we can do, then to continue our work in achieving the vision of Strategic Plan.

Given, that we are approaching mid-term review of Strategic Plan for biodiversity would like to remind you, how vital is the discussion here, and how important are outcomes of SBSTTA 17, dealing with identification of scientific and technical needs, for achievement of 2020 Targets.

With a great gratitude for the work of Secretariat and SBSTTA Bureau in preparing the documents, let me express the concern that scientific needs for the achievement of Aichi targets, specially those on national level, are not completely addressed by this discussion.

It is our national understanding of this matter that only once, when we have done the basic national inventories, we would be able to monitor a status and possible changes in biodiversity at all levels, to use existing tools and to think about further development of tools.

The technical discussion on tools dominates here on the simple truth that many parties still have a need for a lot of scientific work on national level, on inventories and completion of biodiversity data, developing, in same time their own scientific capacities.

This message, we believe, should be transmitted to COP, to be able, to urge and support parties, where is still needed, to complete and improve national data on biodiversity, by all available means, now in order to justify and argue the need for specific national targets, but later on in order to monitor progress on them.

In the end, I would like to point out that there is no other international body, there is no one who is more responsible than SBSTTA, to recommend this kind of action to parties.

Thank you, Madam chair