

Thank you Madam Chair,

Nauru is also speaking on behalf of the Pacific Island States present here namely, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga.

The Pacific islands wish to express our gratitude and appreciation to all the presenters and panellists for their very informative presentations and Parties for their constructive discussions related to the presentations. To countries in the Pacific Islands region, the information exchanged are always new information to explore and apply where and as relevant with the limited resources we have in our island nations.

Chair,

The Pacific Islands welcomes the document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/2/Add.4 which covers Strategic Goal D on Target 14 & 15, where the overall purpose of this target is to maintain and safeguard genetic diversity through the development and application of strategies which allow for the different genes of a species to be sustained. This would include both in situ and ex situ conservation actions.

- Pacific island countries wishes to bring to the attention of Parties, Secretariat and scientific and research organizations on challenges with existing capacities and constraints we have had at country level that we would like to highlight and which also require all your supports and urgency to responds to assist us in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and achieving the Biodiversity Aichi in a timely manner:.

For Target 14.

- We highlight any significant cultural, spiritual and traditional linkages with ecosystem services and stress the need to capture, recognize and integrate these in national and global policy frameworks
- To draw attention on the role ecosystems play to build resilience to impacts of climate change and natural disasters in our islands
- Wish to emphasize the need to promote ecosystem based management and ecosystem based adaptation

For Target 15

- We wish to highlight examples of where ecosystem restoration has been implemented at the national level in particular for those countries that are implementing REDD+ activities.

Madam Chair,

Goal D are of great relevance to the Pacific Island Countries and although progress has been seen, we repeatedly stress that there are still limitations on capacities, tools & guidance as well as financial mechanisms to enable us to implement these targets effectively on a timely manner for the benefits and the well-being of our people. Regarding the range of tools and guidance discussed here in this meeting, the Pacific Island countries wish to highlight that there is also issue relating to the use and application of these at the country level, due to capacity and capacity constraints we have with our human and institutional resources. We appreciate the urgency and support of the Secretariat towards exploring innovative ways and means with relevant partners to address these limitations encountered by the Pacific Island Countries.

We look forward to hearing and learning from other parties and participants on how similar limitations were overcome as well as access to these resources that could assist the Pacific Island Countries in advancing the implementations of Goal D targets.

Thank you