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Item 3.3 of the provisional agenda*

MESSAGE TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (RIO+20)

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), to be held in Rio de Janeiro, from 20 to 22 June 2012, is to consider a number of issues of relevance to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular, food, water, oceans and cities.

2. The objectives of the Convention—the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources—as well as the recently adopted Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets¹ can be usefully integrated into the relevant outcomes of Rio+20 related to the broad agenda of sustainable development. This is particularly relevant considering the focus of Rio+20 is on sustainable consumption and production, enhanced governance and support for inclusive and transparent involvement of stakeholders.

3. In this context, in paragraph (e) of its decision X/9, on its multi-year programme of work for the period 2011-2020, the Conference of the Parties requested the Working Group on Review of Implementation to transmit a message to Rio+20 on the role of biodiversity for sustainable development. Accordingly, and as agreed by the Bureau at its meeting on 5 April 2012, the Executive Secretary has prepared two draft messages for the consideration of the Working Group. The first is a technical message focusing on the outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and their relevance to the Rio+20 discussions (annex I). The second is a concise, high-level political message on the importance of biodiversity for sustainable development (annex II).

* UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/1.

¹ Decision X/2, annex.

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4. The technical message will be made available to the third preparatory meeting for Rio+20, to be held from 13 to 15 June 2012 and will be shared with the Rio+20 secretariat. Furthermore, the Executive Secretary will integrate the elements of this message into briefings of representatives of the Parties to the Convention at appropriate venues, relevant side-events on the margins of the Rio+20 conference and will disseminate it through the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, and to the biodiversity-related conventions and the United Nations organizations through the UNEP Environment Management Group. National focal points are invited to share the technical message with relevant colleagues before and during Rio+20 and associated preparatory meetings and processes.

5. The high-level message would be delivered by the President of the Conference of the Parties during relevant occasions of the Rio+20 meeting.

6. Section II of the present document provides background information on the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20); section III discusses the relevance to Rio+20 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and section IV reports on ongoing work on oceans, cities and synergies among the Rio conventions. Section V and the annexes hereto contain, respectively, a suggested recommendation under this item for the consideration of the Working Group, the draft message to Rio+20 from the Convention on Biological Diversity and the high-level message on the importance of biodiversity for sustainable development.

II. BACKGROUND

7. The Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will be convened in Rio de Janeiro from 20 to 22 June 2012 to mark the twentieth anniversary of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The occasion will also mark the twentieth anniversary of the Rio conventions.

8. Rio+20 will focus on two main themes: (i) the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (ii) the institutional framework for sustainable development. Framing these discussions, seven critical issues have been identified: jobs, energy, cities, food, water, oceans and disasters. Of these, cities, food, water and oceans are closely linked to the work under the Convention and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

9. In preparation for Rio+20, a number of resources have been developed including a zero-order draft of the outcomes document “The Future We Want”,² the report of the United Nations Secretary-General’s High-level Panel on Global Sustainability “Resilient People, Resilient Planet: A future worth choosing”,³ and a series of issue briefs⁴ on:

- (a) Trade and the green economy;
- (b) Options for strengthening the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development (IFSD): peer-review;
- (c) IFSD: issues related to an intergovernmental body on sustainable development;
- (d) Oceans;
- (e) Sustainable cities;
- (f) Current ideas on sustainable development goals and indicators;
- (g) Green jobs and social inclusion;
- (h) Reducing disaster risk and building resilience;

² See:

http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/content/documents/370The%20Future%20We%20Want%2010Jan%20clean%20_no%20brackets.pdf

³ http://www.un.org/gsp/sites/default/files/attachments/GSPReport_unformatted_30Jan.pdf

⁴ <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/rio20issuesbriefs.html>

- (i) Food security and sustainable agriculture;
- (j) Regional, national and local level governance for sustainable development; and
- (k) Water.

10. A review of the resources made available in preparation for Rio+20 reveals potential convergence with the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Of particular relevance is the framework of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as the programmes of work and crosscutting issues under the Convention on Biological Diversity, particularly those related to marine and coastal biodiversity and cooperation with other conventions, most particularly, the Rio conventions.

11. As such, the present document has been prepared in order to identify opportunities for convergence between the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and recent decisions by the Conference of the Parties, and the themes, objectives and discussions at Rio+20.

IV. RELEVANCE OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN AND AICHI NAGOYA TARGETS TO RIO+20

12. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets adopted by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity are directly relevant to a number of themes and critical issues that will be discussed at Rio+20. Although all elements of the Strategic Plan and all of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets will contribute to the realization of a green economy and/or the strengthening of the institutional framework for sustainable development, a number of elements and targets are of particular relevance, especially when considering the overview of the themes contained in the zero-order draft of the Rio+20 outcomes. These links are outlined in table 1 below.

Table 1: Themes of Rio+20 and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011/2020/Aichi Biodiversity Targets

<i>Relevant elements for discussion</i>	<i>Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020</i>	<i>Relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets</i>
The green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication		
Protect and enhance the natural resource base, increase resource efficiency, promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, and move the world toward low-carbon development.	Biological diversity underpins ecosystem functioning and the provision of ecosystem services essential for human well-being. It provides for food security, human health, the provision of clean air and water; it contributes to local livelihoods, and economic development, and is essential for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including poverty reduction.	<i>Target 4:</i> By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

<i>Relevant elements for discussion</i>	<i>Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020</i>	<i>Relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets</i>
	Determined action to value and protect biodiversity will benefit people in many ways, including through better health, greater food security and less poverty. It will also help to slow climate change by enabling ecosystems to store and absorb more carbon; and it will help people adapt to climate change by adding resilience to ecosystems and making them less vulnerable. Better protection of biodiversity is therefore a prudent and cost-effective investment in risk reduction for the global community.	<i>Target 6:</i> By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
		<i>Target 7:</i> By 2020, areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
		<i>Target 14:</i> By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
People-centred and inclusive, providing opportunities and benefits for all citizens and all countries.		<i>Target 16:</i> By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

<i>Relevant elements for discussion</i>	<i>Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020</i>	<i>Relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets</i>
The institutional framework for sustainable development		
Integrate the three pillars of sustainable development and promote the implementation of Agenda 21 and related outcomes, consistent with the principles of universality, democracy, transparency, cost-effectiveness and accountability, keeping in mind the Rio Principles, in particular common but differentiated responsibilities.		<i>Target 3:</i> By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.
		<i>Target 18:</i> By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.
Provide cohesive, government-driven policy guidance on sustainable development and identify specific actions in order to fulfill the sustainable development agenda through the promotion of integrated	Promote effective implementation of the Convention through a strategic approach, comprising a shared vision, a mission, and strategic goals and targets, that will inspire broad-based action by all Parties and stakeholders.	<i>Target 2:</i> By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.

<i>Relevant elements for discussion</i>	<i>Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020</i>	<i>Relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets</i>
decision-making at all levels.	Engagement of the agricultural, forest, fisheries, tourism, energy and other sectors will be essential to success.	<i>Target 17:</i> By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
Monitor progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and relevant outcomes and agreements, at local, national, regional and global levels.	Parties to the Convention should be encouraged to establish national biodiversity targets that support the achievement of the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and outline the measures and activities that will achieve this, such as the development of comprehensive national accounting, as appropriate, that integrates the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services into government decision-making with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders.	<i>Target 2:</i> By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.
	Parties will inform the Conference of the Parties of the national targets or commitments and policy instruments they adopt to implement the Strategic Plan, as well as any milestones towards these targets, and report on progress towards these targets and milestones, including through their fifth and sixth national reports.	
Reinforce coherence among the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, including the international financial and trade institutions.	Partnerships with the programmes, funds and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as well as with other conventions and multilateral and bilateral agencies, foundations, women, indigenous and local communities, and non-governmental organizations, will be essential to support implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 at the national level.	

13. With regard to the critical themes to be discussed at Rio+20, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to sustainable production and consumption as well as those related to protected areas, restoration and addressing threats to biodiversity (strategic goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use and strategic goal C: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity) are particularly relevant. In addition, the critical issues on

cities, food, water and oceans are directly related to work under the Convention on cities and local authorities, marine and coastal biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity and the biodiversity of inland waters.

IV. REPORT ON ONGOING WORK UNDER THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY ON OCEANS, CITIES AND SYNERGIES AMONG THE RIO CONVENTIONS

14. Agenda 21 states:

“Despite mounting efforts over the past 20 years, the loss of the world's biological diversity, mainly from habitat destruction, over-harvesting, pollution and the inappropriate introduction of foreign plants and animals, has continued. Biological resources constitute a capital asset with great potential for yielding sustainable benefits. Urgent and decisive action is needed to conserve and maintain genes, species and ecosystems, with a view to the sustainable management and use of biological resources.”⁵

15. It was in recognition of this threat that the Convention on Biological Diversity was developed for adoption at the 1992 Rio Conference on Environment and Development. Yet, twenty years after the adoption of Agenda 21, the challenge remains. The Convention has contributed to sustainable-development objectives, including within oceans and cities and including through promoting and enhancing synergies among the three Rio conventions. As such, the work under the Convention in these areas is relevant for the discussions at Rio+20 and will support Parties in the implementation of many of the outcomes.

Oceans

16. The oceans cover 70 per cent of the planet's surface area, and marine and coastal environments contain diverse habitats that support an abundance of marine life. In acknowledgement of the importance of oceans, marine and coastal biological diversity was an early priority under the Convention on Biological Diversity. In fact, at the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties, work was called for on scientific, technical and technological aspects of the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity.⁶ Overfishing is widely acknowledged as the greatest single threat to marine wildlife and habitats. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimates that some 85 per cent of the world's fish stocks are now fully exploited, overexploited or depleted.⁷

17. As far as the world's coral reefs are concerned, about 20 per cent of them have been effectively destroyed and show no immediate prospects for recovery; about 16 per cent were seriously damaged by coral bleaching in 1998, but of these, about 40 per cent have either recovered or are recovering well; about 24 per cent of the remaining reefs are under imminent risk of collapse through human pressures; and a further 26 per cent are under a longer-term threat of collapse.

18. Current discussions on marine and coastal biodiversity within the Convention process focus on: describing areas that meet scientific criteria for ecologically or biologically significant areas (EBSAs); identifying threats to oceans from coral bleaching, ocean acidification, fisheries, underwater noise, marine debris; and marine spatial planning and marine protected areas. Future expert workshops are planned on marine protected areas, the role of marine and coastal biodiversity in climate change adaptation and mitigation and on the Sustainable Ocean Initiative.⁸

⁵ Agenda 21: Chapter 15: www.un.org/esa/dsd/agenda21/res_agenda21_15.shtml

⁶ See the draft provisional agenda for the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (decision I/7, annex), item 5.5.3.

⁷ FAO, *State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2010*, (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, 2010), p.8.

⁸ See <http://www.cbd.int/jbfa/activities/capacity/activity.shtml?activityId=1732>.

19. Furthermore, the International Day for Biological Diversity in 2012 will be celebrated under the theme “Marine Biodiversity”.⁹

Cities

20. The Convention process has recognized the converging roles of local and subnational governments, and of healthy ecosystems, in achieving sustainable development and a green economy, especially as cities are home to most of the world’s population and responsible for the majority of resource consumption and waste production yet with increasing efficiency, and with unparalleled opportunities for communicating with, educating, and creating public awareness through existing structures and innovative mechanisms.

21. As such, the Conference of the Parties adopted a Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020),¹⁰ including the Singapore Index on Cities Biodiversity to assess progress.

22. Furthermore, a Global Partnership on Local and Subnational Action for Biodiversity has been established to facilitate responses to the Plan of Action by local governments coordinated by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability; by subnational governments coordinated by the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development; by academia coordinated by Urban Biodiversity and Design (URBIO); and by international organizations including United Nations agencies coordinated by UN-Habitat.

23. Finally, a City Biodiversity Outlook has been produced assessing the impacts and opportunities presented by urbanization and summits for cities and subnational governments are convened in parallel to meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The next such summit will take place at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012.

Synergies among the Rio conventions

24. The links between biodiversity, climate change and desertification/land degradation are better understood and more apparent than ever. This is evidenced by the report of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change, presented to the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This report states that each additional 1°C warming above preindustrial levels will lead to 10 per cent of assessed species facing increased risks of extinction. Additional consequences include (but are not limited) to the following:

- (a) Each degree of warming could lead to an increase in bird extinctions of about 100-500 species;
- (b) Up to 88 per cent of the coral reefs in South-East Asia may be lost over the next 30 years;
- (c) Between 25-40 per cent of mammals in national parks within sub-Saharan Africa may become endangered;
- (d) More than 40 per cent of plant species studied in the Amazon Basin could face extinction.

25. Synergies among the Rio conventions have also been recognized through the Geneva Call for Urgent Action on the Implementation of the successful Nagoya outcomes¹¹ as well as the United Nations General Assembly.

26. Currently, the degradation of many ecosystems, including dry and sub-humid lands is significantly reducing their carbon storage and sequestration capacity, leading to increases in emissions of greenhouse gases and the loss of biodiversity. On the other hand, sustainable land management is one of the most cost-effective ways of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Mechanisms to achieve emissions reductions through improved land management are consistent with mechanisms to conserve and

⁹ See <http://www.cbd.int/ldb/2012/>.

¹⁰ Decision X/22, annex.

¹¹ See <http://www.cbd.int/doc/un/call-for-urgent-action-geneva-2011-09-03-en.pdf>.

sustainably use biodiversity (including those employed for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity). These include improved crop and grazing land management, restoration of degraded lands, reforestation and reduced deforestation. As such, addressing climate change and moving to a low carbon economy will be reliant, in part, on the integrated management of biodiversity and carbon stocks.

27. With regard to adaptation, ecosystem-based approaches that integrate the use of sustainable land management, biodiversity and ecosystem services into an overall adaptation strategy can be cost effective and generate social, economic and cultural co-benefits while contributing to the conservation of biodiversity.

28. In particular, ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation can be a useful and widely applicable approach to adaptation because they:

- (a) Can be applied at regional, national and local levels, at both project and programmatic levels, and benefits can be realized over short and long time-scales;
- (b) May be more cost-effective and more accessible to rural or poor communities than measures based on hard infrastructure and engineering;
- (c) Can integrate and maintain traditional and local knowledge and cultural values.

29. Furthermore, while species and ecosystems have some capacity to adapt to climate change, this natural adaptive capacity can be reduced through other pressures such as over-exploitation, changes in land use and invasive alien species. Accordingly, the realization of a green economy and the enhancement of “green gross domestic product” can be supported through the integration of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity within relevant adaptation plans and policies.

30. As a result of the above, a number of steps have been taken under the Convention to support enhanced synergies among the Rio conventions, including:

- (a) Participation in the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions;
- (b) The adoption of guidance on assessing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, reducing the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and biodiversity-based livelihoods, ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation and mitigation, reducing biodiversity impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, and relevant valuation and incentive measures;
- (c) Carrying out consultative work on REDD+¹² safeguards and climate-related geoengineering as it relates to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (d) Conducting and compiling technical work on a variety of issues including, *inter alia*, soil carbon and biodiversity, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, biodiversity – climate-change modelling; and
- (e) Supporting awareness-raising on the links between the Rio conventions through joint publications and the Rio Conventions Pavilion.

V. SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION

31. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention may wish to:

- (a) Transmit a message to the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) regarding the importance of biodiversity for sustainable development along the lines suggested in the annex to the present note;

¹² With reference to relevant decisions and documents of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the term REDD+ refers to “reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries”.

(b) Invite national focal points and others to share annex I to the present note with officials in charge of preparation for Rio+20 as reference considering the need to ensure that the importance of biodiversity for sustainable development is reflected in national positions for Rio+20;

(c) Invite the President of the Conference of the Parties to deliver the high-level message on the importance of biodiversity for sustainable development, contained in annex II to the present note, during relevant occasions of Rio+20.

Annex I

DRAFT MESSAGE TO RIO+20 FROM THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

1. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, recognizing the opportunity provided by the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to promote a green economy and a strengthened institutional framework for sustainable development, highlights the importance and relevance of mainstreaming the outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity within the global sustainable development agenda:

2. In paragraph 12 of its resolution 65/161 of 20 December 2010, the General Assembly reaffirmed the intrinsic value of biological diversity as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its components, taking into account their importance for sustainable development.

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

3. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets* provide a compelling vision and enabling framework for the realization of sustainable production and consumption specifically contributing to food security, sustainable water management and the green economy.

4. Mainstreaming the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and its allows for multiple sectors to refocus on sustainability by increasing awareness of threats and opportunities, and enhancing the understanding of links between biodiversity and ecosystem services for the benefit of “green gross domestic product”.

5. However, the successful implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 requires new and innovative approaches to link biodiversity conservation and sustainable use to development. This would include removal of incentives that negatively impact biodiversity, such as certain subsidies for fossil fuels, unsustainable agriculture and fisheries. The elimination of such subsidies could free much needed resources for investments into sustainable development. The development and promotion of such approaches need to be part of the enhanced institutional frameworks for sustainable development envisaged at Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

6. Therefore, the recommendation of the United Nations Secretary-General’s High Level Panel on Global Sustainability¹³ for the adoption of global sustainable development goals should be integrated with the national-level targets which are being elaborated within the framework of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as it will support the monitoring and evaluation of progress towards sustainable development objectives. In particular, the suggestion of the Panel to create a sustainable development index or set of indicators by 2014, if endorsed, should be developed based, *inter alia*, on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity

7. The integration of biodiversity values into national accounting would greatly improve the opportunities for the public sector, the private sector, and individual citizens to make decisions that are more sustainable in terms of their impacts on biodiversity.

8. Meeting sustainable development targets will require increased funding for achieving the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity targets and the use of new and innovative financing mechanisms, with appropriate safeguards for the rights of the custodians of biodiversity. In this regard, incorporation of the Convention’s strategy for resource mobilization in the outcome of Rio+20 would contribute to enhance actions towards the achievement of sustainable development goals, especially in developing countries.

* Decision X/2 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, annex.

¹³ United Nations Secretary-General’s High-level Panel on Global Sustainability (2012). *Resilient People, Resilient Planet: A future worth choosing*. New York: United Nations.

The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization

9. The Nagoya Protocol offers a unique opportunity to enhance fairness and transparency in the use of biological resources for the benefit of all stakeholders. As such, action should be taken towards universal ratification of the Protocol and its rapid implementation at all levels.

Oceans

10. If oceans and seas are to continue to provide critical ecosystem services, ecologically or biologically significant marine areas must be identified and protected and the adverse impacts from coral bleaching, ocean acidification, unsustainable fisheries, land-based pollution and sedimentation, increased navigation traffic and underwater noise must be addressed.

11. Increasing the coherence of commitments and assessments related to oceans and seas should include consideration of the Convention's programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and would benefit from the mainstreaming of the related Aichi Biodiversity Targets on marine protected areas, the sustainable management of aquaculture, fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants, and the alleviation of threats to marine ecosystems from climate change.

Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives

12. The achievement of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets is partly dependent on the implementation of the ten-year strategic plan of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the realization of the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). As such, there is a recognition within the Convention process of the important links with the other Rio conventions and enhanced synergies among the three processes are encouraged, especially through implementation at the national level.

13. Rio+20, on the twentieth anniversary of the Rio conventions, offers a unique opportunity to strengthen synergies between biodiversity, climate change, and combating desertification/land degradation in order to enhance efficiencies and avoid overlap. Identifying and promoting such synergies should form an important element of the enhanced institutional framework for sustainable development.

14. Multiple benefits from synergies among the Rio conventions can be achieved if ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation and mitigation and the reduction of the negative impacts of climate change on ecosystems and species are integrated into a green economy and low-carbon development. Greater action is also needed to enhance adaptation and avert the negative impacts of climate change on biodiversity based livelihoods, especially when considering indigenous people and local communities.

Integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development

15. Mainstreaming biodiversity values in economy can support poverty alleviation and sustainable development using appropriate institutional and governance mechanisms. Achievement of the Convention's objective for the sustainable use of biodiversity through implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 can contribute to the generation of green jobs and "green gross domestic product", the consideration of environmental externalities, and the identification and avoidance of harmful incentive measures.

16. Developing and adopting biodiversity-friendly policies with respect to government procurement of products and services, would provide an early push to the implementation of sustainable use of biodiversity.

17. Taking into account the contributions of biodiversity and ecosystem services to human wellbeing, livelihoods and poverty reduction, while developing policies, spatial planning and investment programs, is crucial to provide opportunities for the poor, marginalized and vulnerable communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

Annex II

**HIGH-LEVEL MESSAGE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF BIODIVERSITY FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT FOR DELIVERY AT RIO+20**

1. The planet's species and habitats, and the goods and services they provide, form the basis of our wealth, our health and our well-being. Yet, despite repeated global commitments to protect this heritage, the variety of life on Earth continues to decline at an unprecedented rate. Biodiversity loss is moving ecological systems ever closer to a tipping point beyond which they will no longer be able to fulfill their vital functions.
2. To promote living in harmony with nature, the 193 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, drafted and adopted twenty ambitious Aichi Biodiversity Targets to be achieved by 2020. Achieving these targets are an essential prerequisite to achieving sustainable development and a "green economy". Biological diversity can be the basis for meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century and beyond.
3. Over the past twenty years, an improved understanding of the social, cultural and economic values of biodiversity has emerged. Mainstreaming the multiple values of biodiversity has already helped frame positive responses to the challenges of balancing growth with the preservation of natural capital.
4. The United Nations General Assembly declared the 2011-2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNDB) to strengthen this mainstreaming exercise so necessary to achieve the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The UNDB seeks to ensure that biodiversity figures more prominently in decision-making by governments and industry.
5. Together, we can build the foundations for a sustainable future, the future we want. Delegates are therefore invited to consider the important role of biodiversity during deliberations at Rio+20.
