



STATEMENT BY

MR. BRAULIO F. DE SOUZA DIAS

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

at the opening of the

**ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE LIAISON GROUP ON CAPACITY-BUILDING
FOR BIOSAFETY**

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**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220 Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to welcome you all to the eleventh meeting of the Liaison Group on Capacity-building for Biosafety here in Montreal. I wish to thank you all for taking time from your busy schedules to attend this meeting, which is expected to play a crucial role in contributing to the third assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan of the Protocol covering the period 2011-2020.

Dear colleagues,

The work of the Liaison Group over the next three days, specifically, is to review the analysis of the status and trends in the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol prepared by the Secretariat provide advice on possible conclusions and recommendations for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) for its consideration at its first meeting to be held in May this year, also here in Montreal.

The analysis of the status of implementation of the Protocol is based on the information that was provided by Parties through the third national reports as a primary source, the Biosafety Clearing-House and, where appropriate, through a dedicated survey that was carried out by the Secretariat.

It is important to note that 105 out of the 170 Parties (approximately 62 per cent) prepared and submitted their third national reports to the Secretariat by deadline of 31 December 2015, which is a slightly lower response rate compared to the second reporting cycle, wherein the response rate was almost 90 per cent.

At this juncture, I would like express my appreciation to those Parties that have submitted their third national reports and urge those that have not yet done so to submit their reports as soon as possible. I would also like to thank the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for providing the necessary funds through the United Nations Environment Programme, which have enabled many developing country Parties to prepare their reports.

Colleagues,

The task you are embarking on is critical to ensuring the successful implementation of the Cartagena Protocol and its contribution to sustainable development, especially at this point in time, when many countries around the world are beginning to formulate national strategies and programmes to implement the Sustainable Development Goals that were adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in September last year.

I am very confident that, with broad expertise as assembled at this meeting, you will come up with a comprehensive output that will assist SBI in contributing to the third assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol and the midterm evaluation of the Strategic Plan.

Thanks once again to you all for your commitment and continued support for the work of the Protocol.

I wish you fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.
