



MESSAGE FROM BRAULIO FERREIRA DE SOUZA DIAS TO THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

Twenty years ago, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was born at the Rio Earth Summit. Conceived as tool for sustainable development, it is now one of the world's most important multilateral environmental agreements. In the twenty years since its emergence, governments have elaborated a complete suite of policy tools for the protection of biodiversity. In 2010, at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in Nagoya Japan, governments took the next step – they adopted the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

COP 11, to be held in Hyderabad, India, from 8 to 19 October under the motto “Nature protects if she is protected,” will be the occasion to build the momentum needed to realize the vision of the Strategic Plan. COP 11 will be the forum to mobilise energy, resources and the political will needed to mainstream biodiversity into all activities of society.

At the meeting, governments will assess progress made in translating the Aichi Targets into revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans (NBSAPs). Another key element of COP11 will be the discussions on the resource mobilization strategies that will be needed at global, national and local levels to realise the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

As implementation of the Strategic Plan will require engagement of all stakeholders, a broad range of partners will be present in Hyderabad. Government delegates will be joined by representatives of civil society, subnational and local authorities, the private sector, youth, indigenous leaders, development agencies and parliamentarians in discussions and parallel summits that have, as their goal, support for achievement of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

For example, COP 11 will coincide with the second summit on cities and biodiversity which will assess the implementation of the Action Plan on cities and biodiversity. In addition, a meeting of sub-national government will also be convened.

COP 11 is also noteworthy because it comes after the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. With 92 signatures and 3 ratifications as of mid-April 2012, a strong momentum has been established for entry into force of the agreement in the near future. At COP 11, governments will consider the status of preparations for the entry into force of the Protocol on the basis of the reports of the first and second meetings of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ICNP). In light of these outcomes and the status of ratifications, it will agree on the appropriate course of action pending the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol.

Together with our hosts, the government of India, the world will continue its vigorous work in support of protecting nature and ensuring that she will provide protection to us all in the future.