

Welcome remarks by Indian Minister on the occasion of launch of CoP-11 website at SBSTTA-15

The sixth CoP/MoP of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the eleventh CoP to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will be held in less than a year from now in Hyderabad, India. Coming soon after the Rio+20 summit, this will be the first CoP in the UN Decade on Biodiversity. CoP-11 would also be the first opportunity for the global biodiversity community to review the progress made in the Nagoya Compact since the last CoP held in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, wherein three significant decisions were adopted:

- Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing;
- Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020; and
- resource mobilization.

We hope that the momentum built at CoP-10 will help us in moving forward on these issues, including on developing national targets based on the Aichi targets, early entry into force of ABS Protocol, and adoption of targets for resource mobilization. India stands committed to the implementation of the three objectives of the CBD in a balanced manner. We have a great deal to offer to the world in terms of our experience in protecting biodiversity with the active participation of the local communities. At the same time, we have much to learn from the experiences of other countries on this front.

For the High Level Segment of CoP-11, I have identified five important issues for discussions which are directly relevant to the agenda of CoP-11.

These five issues are:

1. Biodiversity and livelihoods
2. Integration of value of biodiversity in national planning and accounting process
3. Strategy for resource mobilization
4. Coastal and marine biodiversity
5. Operationalisation of Nagoya Protocol

I am confident that all the Hon'ble Ministers will participate in this important event and with their active support; we will be able to take the biodiversity agenda forward through the CoP-11. The slogan coined by us for CoP-11: 'Nature Protects if She is Protected', should inspire and encourage each one of us to make our contribution towards protecting the biodiversity, on which we so completely depend for our survival. We look forward to welcoming you all in Hyderabad, India next year.

Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan

Minister of Environment & Forests, India