



MESSAGE FROM BRAULIO FERREIRA DE SOUZA DIAS, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The Republic of Korea will be our generous and gracious host in Pyeongchang from 29 September to 17 October 2014. During these three weeks, representatives from the world's governments will come together to discuss, plan and take decisions during three distinct meetings for the overall implementation of the Convention and its Protocols: the seventh Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP-7) from 29 September to 3rd October, the Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-12) from 6 to 17 October 2014, and the first Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (COP-MOP-1) from 13 to 17 October 2014.

These three meetings come at a crucial time. As we approach the halfway mark of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNDB), we need to take stock of the status of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. We need to chart the course for the road ahead for the Convention and its Protocols for the remaining years of the UNDB and the Strategic Plan.

As we meet in Pyeongchang, we will have the opportunity to discuss our shared global vision for biodiversity and work to link the Strategic Plan with the global agenda for sustainable development. I am particularly pleased that our host, the Government of the Republic of Korea, has agreed to make "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development" the theme of this COP.

The High-Level Segment, which runs from 15 to 16 October 2014, will be an important forum for discussions of the essential role of biodiversity for sustainable development. In the wake of the excellent results from the Open Working Group of the United Nations General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, these dialogues will be key in building greater momentum for mainstreaming biodiversity beyond the core biodiversity community and ensuring the central role of biodiversity in the post-2015 agenda.

Pyeongchang will also host COP-MOP-7 for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which will also review progress on its Strategic Plan adopted at its fifth meeting. The Parties to the Protocol will use the meeting to re-double their efforts towards the full implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

I am also delighted that we will hold the first COP-MOP of the Nagoya Protocol. With its entry into force, the Nagoya Protocol fulfills the third objective of the Convention – equitable sharing

of benefits from the use of the genetic resources of our planet. The CBD can now truly be said to be an instrument of sustainable development.

Running concurrently to these will also be a number of parallel events and summits that address the important role of the global network of partners and stakeholders for implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan. A summit on Cities, a forum on business, a fair of best practices in Communication, Education and Public Awareness and an entire programme of side-events will offer opportunities to share experiences on practical ways to accelerate implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

Let us prepare well for Pyeongchang – prepare ourselves to engage with a spirit of respect and compromise, of energy, commitment and cooperation – for biodiversity, for human well-being and for a future of life in harmony with nature.
