



Ref.: SCBD/MCO/AF/NP/OH/85959

15 September 2016

## NOTIFICATION

### Opportunities for synergies with Habitat III Conference

Dear Madam/Sir,

I would like to call your attention to the opportunity for mainstreaming biodiversity and subnational implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) into the outcome documents and initiatives of the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) to be held on 17–20 October 2016 in Quito, Ecuador.

Following the inclusive process in preparation for the conference, the draft document of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) to be considered for adoption in Quito underscores the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems in the urban context, and their strong linkages to climate change adaptation, in particular the section on “Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient Urban Development” (paragraphs 63-80), as well as under “Our Shared Vision (paragraph 13 (h) and “Our Principles and Commitments” (14 (c).

The Conference of the Parties has recognized the importance of cities in numerous decisions (IX/28, X/22, XI/ and XII/9). In addition, at its first meeting, the Subsidiary Body for Implementation called upon Parties and invited other Governments, “*in view of the need for more effective engagement of subnational and local governments and in accordance with national circumstances, to include consideration of biodiversity related to subnational and local governments in relevant international processes*” (recommendation 1/4), for consideration by the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13).

In this regard, I invite you, in your capacity as CBD National Focal Points, to liaise with your country’s delegation to Habitat III to identify and strengthen linkages between sustainable urban settlements and the objectives of the CBD. Furthermore, Parties can use the opportunities presented by the related roundtables and special sessions at Habitat III. Additional information, as well as the latest version of the NUA, can be found at: <https://www.habitat3.org/>.

The outcomes of the conference will also be considered by COP 13, to be held on 4-17 December 2016, and by the 5th Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments<sup>1</sup> to be held on 10-11 December in Cancun, Mexico.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretariat at [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int).

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias  
Executive Secretary

<sup>1</sup> <http://cop13.mx/en/global-biodiversity-summit-cities-subnational-governments/>

To: CBD National Focal Points, SBSTTA Focal Points



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](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int) [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)

