



STATEMENT BY

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**CENTRAL AMERICA REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON
BIODIVERSITY AND FINANCE**

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

Panama is well known as the bridge between North and South America, and to provide the canal between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Panama is also the hub for America's flying species, and Panama City has the highest concentration of migratory birds on the planet. Yet, as Mr. Richardo Martinelli Berrocal, President of Panama, said: "The beauty, resources and biodiversity of our world heritage are in peril." It is thus befitting that the regional workshop on biodiversity and finance is convened in this beautiful city, with participation of both focal points to the Convention and its financial mechanism, in order to explore bridges and canals between finance and biodiversity for saving our common future.

Mexican Nobel Prize Octavio Paz said: "cualesquiera que sean las formas de organizacion politica y social que adopten las naciones, la cuestion mas inmediata y apremiante es la supervivencia del medio natural. Defender a la naturaleza es defender a los hombre" (whatever the form of political and social organization chosen by nations, the most immediate and pressing issue is the survival of the natural environment. To defend nature is to defend mankind)

The Convention on Biological Diversity has been designed to provide a global framework for action by all stakeholders. Last October, the Conference of the Parties adopted the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, and thus effectively removed the last drag on the balanced implementation of the three objectives of the Convention. In Nagoya, the 193 Parties established the global strategic plan for biodiversity for the period 2011-2020 - a blueprint for halting the loss of biodiversity, defined achievable targets and timetables, and established a framework that all partners, even those with different views, can embrace. Unlike previous global biodiversity strategies with no attention to finance, Governments further elaborated the Convention's strategy for resource mobilization in support of achieving the Convention's three objectives in Nagoya. Never in the history before has the international community become so ready to address global biodiversity challenges with a strategic, institutional and financial framework for biodiversity at the beginning of a decade. That is why the United Nations General Assembly already declared it as United Nations Decade for Biodiversity.

Mr. Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, President of Mexico said: "Climate change is not a problem to be faced by nations according to their degree of development. It is a task that requires the translation of words into deeds that are to be substantiated by concrete proposals that are based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities." This is also relevant to the global biodiversity agenda, and the global action framework must be translated from words into deeds.

Since the Nagoya Protocol was open for signature on 2 February in New York, the nine following countries have signed this historical treaty: Colombia, Yemen, Algeria, Brazil, Mexico, Rwanda, Ecuador, the Central African Republic, the Seychelles, Mali, and Sudan. An impressive number of countries have already informed the secretariat of their intention to sign the Protocol at the next signing ceremony which will take place in New York on 11 May 2011 in conjunction with the high-level segment of the nineteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development.

I am extremely grateful to the GEF for promoting and expediting early this year the adoption of a Medium Sized Project to ensure the early entry into force of the Protocol. We therefore very much hope to break a record by ensuring the entry into force of the Protocol on 19th July 2012 so as to convene its first governing body meeting in conjunction with the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in India in October 2012.

At the initiative of Japan, a dedicated Trust Fund for the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization was established at the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on 17 March 2011. With an initial contribution of US\$12.5 million from Japan, the Trust Fund for Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF) aims at facilitating the early entry into force and the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol.

I am also pleased to note that the GEF is making available US\$40 million through an expedited and expanded access to support updating national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the global strategic plan for biodiversity for the period 2011-2020. To assist eligible countries to translate the Aichi Targets into national strategies and action plans before COP 11, Japan has established a Japan Biodiversity Fund which is now fully operational at the Secretariat. From Kasane, Botswana to Isle of Vilm, Germany, Beirut, Lebanon and Xi'an, China, a series of regional and sub-regional workshops is being organized by your Secretariat to assist in national efforts to revise and update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans. And more regional and sub-regional workshops on national and regional biodiversity strategies and action plans are in the design.

Colleagues,

While the Conference of the Parties succeeded in determining global biodiversity priorities for the next decade in Nagoya, the successful fifth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund has also become effective. Opportunities are evident in maximizing the effectiveness of utilizing financial resources available from the Global Environment Facility to address agreed global biodiversity priorities at the national and regional levels. The regional workshops on biodiversity and finance aim to enable the primary focal points of the two primary establishments for biodiversity to make informed decisions on prioritizing more resources to biodiversity.

The regional workshops on biodiversity and finance have been organized in Kinshasa, D.R. Congo, Kiev, Ukraine, Da Lat, Vietnam and Cartagena, Colombia this year, in collaboration with the GEF Country Support Programme and in conjunction with the GEF Expanded Constituency Workshops. The successful collaboration between the secretariats of the GEF and the CBD in this regard has demonstrated that tremendous further effectiveness and efficiency can be achieved if the two institutional arrangements work together.

Indeed, as Mr. Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, President of Mexico, said: “We live in the era of shared responsibility.” Mrs. Laura Chinchilla Miranda, the first female President of the Republic of Costa Rica, further warned: “The conclusion is clear: either we act together, and soon, or with the same velocity we will regret the consequences.” Mr. Richardo Martinelli Berrocal, President of Panama, stated: “We must unite to protect and conserve our beauty, resources, biodiversity, world heritage and our people.”

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Convention’s strategy for resource mobilization in support of achieving the Convention’s three objectives was adopted in 2008, and its full implementation is essential to advancing the objectives of the Convention and its protocols, in particular the Aichi targets of the Global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the period 2011-2020. The regional workshops on biodiversity and finance are the first round of opportunities to examine the progress made in implementing the Convention’s strategy for resource mobilization, share national and regional experiences and information, and explore further opportunities, including innovative financial mechanisms, in order to mobilize more, faster and better finance for biodiversity.

In this regard, guidance from world leaders can be of relevance. Mr. Richardo Martinelli Berrocal, President of Panama, said: “We must apply new formulas, change our behavior and value our relationship with nature.” Mrs. Laura Chinchilla Miranda, first female President of the Republic of Costa Rica, stated: “The success of our domestic administration depends upon a fair international system, efficient, open and responsible, and also capable to undertake the great challenges of our time,” and “We should benefit with the innovative schemes of technical cooperation, productive financing and public-private alliances.”

By working together, harder and more creatively, we can be hopeful, as stated by Mr. Richardo Martinelli Berrocal, President of Panama: “Our best days are yet to come.”

Thank you very much for your attention.
