



**STATEMENT BY**

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**ON THE OCCASION OF**

**THE ROUNDTABLE AT THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT**

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**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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## **Looking at the way forward in implementing the expected outcomes of the Conference.**

Thank you Madam Chair,

*“By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.”*

This is the Vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Nagoya, Japan in 2010 and supported in the outcome of this Conference (198)<sup>1</sup>.

To secure this future, the plan contains twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2015 and 2020.

Since assuming the role of Executive Secretary of the Convention a few months ago, I have been stressing that the priorities for the Convention are implementation, implementation and implementation.

This Conference has underscored the need for concrete action to accelerate implementation of the commitments made here and at earlier summits .

Allow me to highlight a few areas where implementation of the Convention can support the outcomes of this Conference:

Firstly, protection and better use of biodiversity in agriculture (as called for in a number of the Aichi Targets) will help us to achieve our goals for food security – we can draw upon biodiversity to increase yields, to keep pests and diseases in check and to provide diverse and healthy diets (109, 158).

Second, maintaining ecosystem resilience and conserving and deploying genetic diversity will help us to adapt to unavoidable climate change (190). Protecting and restoring forests and other ecosystems will contribute to carbon sequestration (193) and to the fight against desertification. (Aichi targets 5 and 15 call for us to at least half the rate of deforestation and forest degradation and to restore at least 15% of degraded lands by 2020.)

My third point regards the oceans. This Conference has recognized the oceans as critical to sustaining the Earth’s ecosystem (158). In fact, the biodiversity of our oceans provides high quality diets and livelihoods for hundreds of millions of people and is the basis of geochemical cycles that sustain all of us. The role of Aichi Target 11 to establish, by 2020, marine protected areas for 10% of the seas will be an essential part of our efforts to protect these ecosystems and restore the depleted fisheries stocks (177) . And ongoing work under the Convention to describe ecologically or biologically significant marine areas will contribute to work under the General Assembly, in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (162).

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<sup>1</sup> Numbers in parentheses refer to relevant paragraphs of the outcome document as adopted on Tuesday,

Fourthly, recognizing that biodiversity underpins all the ecosystem services that are the basis for a truly green economy, Aichi target 2 calls for to integrate the values of biodiversity in national planning and accounting. This will be an important part of our efforts to complement GDP with broader measures of progress (38).

An essential complementary target is Aichi Target 3 which calls for a phasing out of economic incentives with perverse impacts on biodiversity and an expansion of positive incentives to promote the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity. Partnerships will be essential, to leverage the actions needed and to mainstream biodiversity into the economic sectors (201).

In this context, we also look forward to contributing to the development of the Sustainable Development Indicators (246; 249) since biodiversity is an important element underpinning all three dimensions of sustainable development (197).

Ongoing work on the CBD strategy for resource mobilization can also feed into the Sustainable development Financing Strategy (255).

Of course, we will also need to monitor our progress to know if we are on the right track and to adjust accordingly. That's why the reference in the outcome document to enhancing observations is so important (274).

In closing, I look forward to working with all partners to help all countries in their efforts to achieve the Aichi Targets and contribute to the actions agreed here and value the natural capital which is the greatest wealth of our countries. I thank you for your attention.