



STATEMENT BY

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

to the

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS FOR AFRICAN NATIONALS REGARDING (I) NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ACCESS & BENEFIT SHARING AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE; AND (II) NAGOYA-KUALA LUMPUR SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL ON LIABILITY & REDRESS TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY

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**Convention on
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Introduction

First all, may I convey the warm greetings of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Braulio Dias, to you all. He sends his thanks and congratulations to the Government of India for organizing these events, which are important and timely for our African colleagues. I thank you all for coming to attend these African Workshops on the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization and on the Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety here in Bangalore.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Nagoya Protocol on Access and benefit sharing

As you know, at the biodiversity conference held in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, the world has witnessed the adoption of two legally binding instruments: the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, and the Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

The adoption of the Nagoya Protocol by the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention was a major milestone. It is a major step towards ensuring the full implementation of the Convention by finally deciding to operationalize its third objective: the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources

The Nagoya Protocol obtained 92 signatures by the closing date for signature and as of today, 14 Parties to the Convention, including India and five African countries, have deposited their instruments of ratification or accession. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate these countries for sending a clear signal of their commitment to the entry into force and implementation of the Protocol. I encourage other countries to follow suit to ensure the timely entry into force of this important international instrument.

At the 11th Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP 11), held in October last year in Hyderabad, another beautiful city of India, Parties agreed on a process forward and activities for the next biennium related to the Protocol, including the reconvening of the Intergovernmental Committee for a third meeting to address outstanding issues in its work plan and the following additional issues: (1) Monitoring and reporting; and (2) exchange of views on the development, updating and use of sectoral and cross-sectoral model contractual clauses, voluntary codes of conduct, guidelines and best practices and standards. Parties also agreed on convening three inter-sessional meetings prior to the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee. The meetings are meant to advance discussions on the need for and modalities of a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism; measures to assist in capacity-building and development through the development of a strategic framework; and the implementation of the pilot phase of the ABS Clearing-House, through an informal advisory committee.

COP-11 also provided clear guidance to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) to support the Nagoya Protocol, emphasizing the importance of financial and technical support aimed at promoting the ratification and implementation of the Protocol.

As you are well aware, the Nagoya Protocol's success will require effective implementation by Parties at the domestic level. The Nagoya Protocol provides flexibility: the challenge is to determine the best approach to implement the Protocol in order to meet common objectives while taking into account national interests.

Nagoya - Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability & Redress

Ladies and Gentlemen

As you also know, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety adopted, at its fifth meeting in Nagoya, Japan, the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. The Supplementary Protocol aims at contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health, by providing international rules and procedures in the field of liability and redress relating to living modified organisms.

At its sixth meeting held in October last year in Hyderabad, the COP-MOP adopted, among other things, decision BS-VI/11 on the Supplementary Protocol. In that decision, the COP-MOP called upon Parties to the Protocol that have not yet done so to initiate and expedite their internal processes leading to ratification, or accession to the Supplementary Protocol. COP-MOP 6 also invited Parties and relevant organizations to make financial resources available with a view to supporting awareness-raising, experience-sharing and capacity building activities in order to expedite the early entry into force and implementation of the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol. The present workshop organized with the generous financial support of the Government of India responds directly to this invitation by the COP-MOP. The Secretariat is grateful for this initiative.

I am pleased to inform you that to date we have 11 Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety that have deposited their instrument of ratification or accession to the Supplementary Protocol. We hope that more will follow suit in the coming months and that you will do your part in initiating domestic processes or contributing to existing dialogues towards the ratification and implementation of the Supplementary Protocol by your respective countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Conclusion

These workshops are therefore very timely as they specifically aim at facilitating discussions, exchange of views and experiences with a view to developing strategies and options to effectively address the needs and priorities of Parties in their efforts towards the ratification and the implementation of these two instruments. These types of exchanges are critical to ensuring

complementarity and coherence in the implementation of these two Protocols.

I urge you to share your experiences freely and to raise questions that you may have about the objective and the requirements of these two instruments.

Finally, I would like to express once again the Secretariat's sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of India for organizing these workshops. This initiative reiterates and confirms India's leadership and continued commitment to advancing the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

I wish you very fruitful deliberations and most successful workshops.