



**STATEMENT FROM MR. BRAULIO F. DE SOUZA DIAS
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR ANGLOPHONE AFRICA ON THE
INTEGRATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION
IN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLANNING PROCESSES**

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**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you all to the Sub-Regional Workshop for Anglophone Africa on the Integration of Climate Change and Ecosystem-based Adaptation in National Biodiversity Planning Processes.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for hosting this workshop in the beautiful city of Dar es Salaam. I would also like to acknowledge with great thanks the financial support provided by the Government of Japan, which allowed all of us to meet here.

I would also like to express my gratitude to members of the Secretariat of the Framework Convention on Climate Change for their assistance with the organization of this workshop, which is being held back to back with their Technical Workshop on Ecosystem-based Approaches for Adaptation to Climate Change under the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change. I am grateful for this collaboration to ensure maximum synergies between the objectives of our respective workshops.

The links between biodiversity and climate change flow both ways. Biodiversity and associated ecosystem services are the cornerstone of sustainable development. This relationship has long been recognized through the decisions of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is important, therefore, to ensure that both issues are not considered in isolation.

Ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation use biodiversity and ecosystem services in an overall adaptation strategy and include the sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems to provide services that help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

The Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in decision X/33, requested the Executive Secretary to support Parties to design and implement ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation as they relate to biodiversity.

With you today are participants who are responsible for the development, updating and/or implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), as well as participants who are responsible for the development of national climate change adaptation plans. I hope that the workshop will lead to more synergies between the two processes at the national level and more communication and coordination between the different actors.

I wish you all very successful and productive discussions over the coming days and as always the Secretariat stand ready to support your efforts on this issue.

Thank you.