



**Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity,  
Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias,**

*on the occasion of*

**United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea  
Fourteenth meeting, 17 to 20 June 2013, UNHQ, New York**

Mr. Co-Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

The CBD Secretariat would like to update the meeting regarding our work relevant to the agenda item under consideration. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its tenth meeting, in decision X/29, expressed its serious concern that increasing ocean acidification, as a direct consequence of increased carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere, reduces the availability of carbonate minerals in seawater, which are important building blocks for marine plants and animals.

Likewise, COP 10 took note that many concerns exist regarding the biological and biogeochemical consequences of ocean acidification for marine and coastal biodiversity and ecosystems, and the impacts of these changes on oceanic ecosystems and the services they provide. It was also emphasized that the ecological effects of ocean acidification must be considered in conjunction with the impacts of global climate change.

COP 10 then requested the Executive Secretary to develop, in collaboration with relevant international organizations, a series of joint expert review processes to monitor and assess the impacts of ocean acidification on marine and coastal biodiversity and widely disseminate the results of this assessment in order to raise the awareness of Parties, other Governments and organizations.

As one of the outcomes of this expert review process, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at its eleventh meeting, in decision XI/18, took note of the guidance for practical responses to the impacts of ocean acidification on marine and coastal biodiversity, and encouraged Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to make use of this guidance to reduce various threats from ocean acidification to vulnerable ecosystems and to enhance the resilience of ecosystems through a range of area-based or other management measures, in addition to measures to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Hard copies of this guidance document are available for meeting participants at the display desk of this room.

In the same decision, COP 11 requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with relevant international organizations on the preparation of a systematic review document on the impacts of ocean acidification on biodiversity and ecosystem functions. This review will build upon CBD's previous synthesis report published in 2009 as CBD Technical Series 46, and it will provide a targeted synthesis of the biodiversity

implications of ocean acidification for marine and coastal systems, including information on the less-reported paleo-oceanographic research.

Pursuant to this request, the CBD Secretariat has been collaborating with experts from Parties and relevant organizations, with the kind financial support of the Government of the United Kingdom, to prepare this systematic review document.

In this regard, the CBD Secretariat and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO jointly convened a lunch-time side event yesterday 18 June, to inform the participants of this meeting about the preliminary results of this document. We thank all the speakers and participants who contributed to the successful conclusion of this side event.

Building upon the feedback we received yesterday at the side event, the draft report will be further revised and circulated to CBD Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and individual experts for their review and feedback. Final draft report will then be prepared incorporating peer-review comments, and submitted for consideration to the eighteenth meeting of CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), tentatively scheduled for June 2014, and 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, scheduled for October 2014.

Mr. Co-chair

The Secretariat is ready to work closely with the representatives of States and relevant organizations to ensure that the best available scientific information on the impacts of ocean acidification on marine biodiversity can be provided for consideration during your meeting.

Thank you for your attention.