



**STATEMENT FROM  
MR. BRAULIO F. DE SOUZA DIAS  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 10<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF  
THE PROTOCOL**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Ten years ago, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity entered into force, establishing an international commitment to ensure the safe handling, transfer and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology. Entering into force on 11 September 2003 following 50 ratifications, today over 165 countries are Parties to the Protocol, which is one of the fastest growing treaties of the United Nations.

As a result, in countries across the world, practical steps have been taken to establish functional biosafety systems. For example, in my home country, Brazil, an administrative biosafety system is in place to handle applications concerning the import of LMOs. The system includes carrying out risk assessments prior to decisions on the imports of LMOs. It also includes steps to ensure that LMOs shipped across borders are handled, packaged and transported under conditions of safety. Furthermore, additional regulations are in place and presently being implemented.

In all, more than 100 countries have now developed or are in the process of developing biosafety regulations and taken other steps necessary to implement the Protocol. The Biosafety Clearing-House is fully operational and helps facilitate the exchange of information on LMOs between contracting Parties. Another milestone was achieved in 2010 when Parties to the Protocol adopted the Nagoya Kuala-Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress, establishing international rules and procedures on liability and redress for potential damage resulting from the export and import of LMOs.

I pay tribute to all Parties, to other Governments and to all stakeholders for their concerted effort in operationalizing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. As we mark this tenth anniversary, I call on all countries that have yet done so to ratify the Protocol and its Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress as soon as possible.

It also is important to highlight the Protocol's contribution to sustainable development and the role it plays in conserving our biodiversity. We have certainly come a long way. But for the



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Protocol to work and be fully effective, we need a better understanding among all stakeholders on how the Protocol works and contributes to sustainable development. The Protocol needs all of us as ambassadors to spread the message of the Protocol's contribution to the conservation and sustainable use to biological diversity. To that end, I urge all countries to help showcase the Protocol's successes and lessons learned as portrayed in the theme of this anniversary: *10 Years of Promoting Safety in the Use of Biotechnology*.

I wish you all a very successful celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

(The video clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjYm2VcPEeU>)