



STATEMENT BY

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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**GLOBAL WORKSHOP ON REVIEWING PROGRESS AND BUILDING CAPACITY FOR THE
NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS REVISION PROCESS**

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**Convention on
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Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Firstly, let me first say that I am extremely grateful to the Government of Kenya, as our host country, the Government of Japan and the EU as the main sponsors, and to all of our partners for the excellent collaboration and effective preparation of this workshop.

As I recently said at SBSTTA-17, three years have now passed since the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 -- three years that have been challenging for many countries and for the global community at large. Three years during which socio-economic and finance considerations have dominated political discourse and during which budgets for environmental action have continued to shrink. Three years which triggered old reflexes of unilateralism, unfettered natural resource exploitation and lingering climate-change denial. Clearly, the biodiversity community is facing significant challenges.

Within these three years, we have also seen most Parties actively embarking on updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), although this process has proceeded more slowly than perhaps the Conference of the Parties envisaged at its tenth meeting in Japan.

In Hyderabad, India, at its eleventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties, through its decision XI/2, requested to continue to promote and facilitate, in partnership with relevant organizations, activities to strengthen implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and progress towards the Aichi Targets at national, sub-regional and regional levels. One such mechanism, launched at COP11, is the NBSAP Forum, a partnership between the CBD Secretariat, UNEP, UNDP, governments and NGOs working to support NBSAP revision and implementation.

Many Parties, mostly with GEF financial support, have already initiated the NBSAP revision process, which is an important step in the right direction; but there are many other steps that must be taken to meet the 2015 deadline for NBSAP revision, and for implementation through to 2020. In August this year, I issued a notification to remind Parties of what is expected from the updated NBSAPs based on the decisions of the Conference of the Parties.

Also, just a few weeks ago, during SBSTTA-17, I issued a complementary notification bringing to the attention of Parties the opportunities and existing guidance for promoting synergies with other biodiversity-related conventions; and also the integration of the two Protocols to the CBD, even as we approach entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS, and taking into consideration the Strategic Plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety 2011-2020 agreed at COP-MOP5 in Nagoya. I also encouraged Parties to use the agreed revised targets under the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the national action plans for protected areas submitted by 107 countries last year as a basis for their national target setting process.

For this reason, with the support from the Government of Japan and the European Union, the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies, UNEP and UNDP, has convened this global workshop, as part of the activities of the NBSAP Forum, to review progress and build capacity for the NBSAP revision process. This week, I understand that you will focus on strategic target setting, mainstreaming biodiversity and resource mobilization, which have been identified as most in need of technical support. This workshop provides a real opportunity for you all to share experiences, on both progress and challenges, in both a peer-to-peer manner, and with the support of a range of other partners to the expanding NBSAP Forum.

Ladies and gentlemen, your work here this week will have important repercussions for the future of biodiversity at both national and global levels. I am confident that you will work constructively to establish the foundations for the full and effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which will be assessed at COP12 in October. Thus, I urge you to submit your revised NBSAPs with all its mechanisms by next year in order to enrich the assessment of the progress made at the next Conference of the Parties and to facilitate their discussions of the implementation roadmap to 2020. I wish you all a productive workshop.

Thank you for your kind attention