



STATEMENT BY
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CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
ON THE OCCASION OF THE
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**Convention on
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Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to join other speakers in thanking the Government of Turkey for hosting this important meeting that will allow the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) to build on its intersessional work and start developing its first products.

The Conference of the Parties to the CBD, at its eleventh meeting in 2012, invited the Platform to consider how its work plan can contribute to the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It requested IPBES to consider ways in which the activities of the Platform could contribute to assessments of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and to provide information on policy options available to deliver the 2050 Vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

The COP also invited IPBES to develop a work programme that includes the preparation of the next global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services, to be launched in 2018.

I am very pleased to see that the IPBES MEP, in the course of 2013, prepared a draft work programme for IPBES that takes these requests into account. The CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), which held its seventeenth meeting from 14 to 18 October in Montreal, Canada, welcomed the draft work programme and emphasized that it is expected to provide useful and evidence-based information for the Convention.

The 17th meeting of SBSTTA greatly benefitted from the presence of Prof. Zakri, whom I would like to thank for his inspiring keynote address. I look forward to continuing our fruitful collaboration.

I am also very pleased to see the draft conceptual framework that gives prominence to institutions and governance – that is to how people value and use biodiversity.

Ladies and gentlemen

As you know, COP-10 adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 including the twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The COP recognized that if current trends persist we would see continuing loss of biodiversity throughout this century, with the risk of drastic consequences for human societies as several thresholds or “tipping points” might be crossed at the sub-national, national, regional and global levels.

To avoid this, action must be taken this decade. Therefore, most of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets have 2020 as their target year, some of them even 2015.

As we are approaching the mid-term review of achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets next year, it becomes evident that we need to increase our efforts and take more urgent action – and that the Platform could and should play a major role in promoting implementation of the

Strategic Plan. What can we do to help countries to bring underway actions on the ground? How can we align the timing of processes under IPBES and the CBD in a way to build the necessary momentum before 2020?

The SBSTTA, at its seventeenth meeting, identified very concrete scientific and technical needs for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity which cut across all Aichi Biodiversity Targets. For example,

- the need for better ways and new approaches to draw on social sciences to motivate choices consistent with the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
- the need for better understanding of ecosystem processes and functions and their implications for ecosystem conservation and restoration, ecological limits, tipping points, socio-ecological resilience and ecosystem services;
- the need for improved methodologies and indicators for monitoring ecosystem resilience and recovery, and
- the need to strengthen non-monetary valuation tools and methodologies for the maintenance of ecosystem functions;

just to mention a few.

Echoing the outcomes of the CBD's Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, the Subsidiary Body also emphasized the important role of indigenous and traditional knowledge systems, intercultural and scientific dialogues and a broad range of approaches, visions and models related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the work of the IPBES to complement scientific and other relevant information, tools and methodologies for policymaking.

I hope that IPBES will take these questions and needs into account and will actively pursue its role in facilitating the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity when further refining and implementing its work programme.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is crucial that IPBES provides its products in a timely and predictable manner, while ensuring that they meet the highest scientific standards and the needs of policy-making.

We look forward to seeing IPBES's work get underway as soon as possible.

And I reiterate with emphasis: if we are to achieve the Aichi Targets, action must begin right away.

Thank you for your attention.