



VIDEO MESSAGE¹ OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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on the occasion of the

FIRST GLOBAL BIOFIN WORKSHOP

25-27 February 2014

Bratislava, Slovakia

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear friends:

I was very pleased to receive the invitation to be part of this important event and very much regret for not being able to be with you today. Effective mobilization of resources, including financial resources, is central for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and so is our partnership with the UNDP BIOFIN initiative on this topic. If it were not for the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, which is taking place right now as you are looking at me on the screen, I would have been delighted to address you in person.

The extent to which the global biodiversity targets can be achieved will depend largely upon the availability of resources to be mobilized from both public and private sources, and through traditional and innovative mechanisms. We know from recent assessments that a significant funding gap remains for countries to achieve the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Targets. The eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, by adopting a set of global targets for increasing funding from all sources, has given considerable political momentum to address this funding gap.

One of these global targets is to significantly increase the number of countries that have prepared national financial plans for biodiversity by 2015. National governments throughout the globe are now working towards translating the global Strategic Plan into national policies, in particular by revising and updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. However, Parties to the CBD recognized that revised NBSAPs need to be underpinned by a comprehensive national Resource Mobilisation Strategy in order to effectively meet the biodiversity finance gap.

It is against this background that the initiative of the United Nations Development Programme to establish BIOFIN in October 2012 was so timely, in order to provide countries with the necessary tools and technical assistance to address the finance gap and to develop

¹ <http://youtu.be/u5YJt32NLDQ>



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effective national finance plans. This is part of a broader collaborative effort – under the NBSAP forum – to provide support to countries in their design and implementation of NBSAPs. I was pleased to take note of the dynamic developments under BIOFIN since 2012, including the imminent increase of the number of countries directly supported by BIOFIN. I believe this global workshop is also indicative of the high interest among countries in this initiative, and wish to take this opportunity to thank the European Union as well as the Governments of Germany and Switzerland for their support.

I was particularly pleased to learn that further enhancing the coordination and collaboration between BIOFIN and the SCBD is an important priority of our UNDP partners. I strongly believe that the close collaboration between our organizations is critical for ‘delivering as one’ and thus providing coherent and more effective support to Parties on resource mobilization. An important element is to support the development of national finance plans in non-BIOFIN countries, by up-scaling BIOFIN approaches and methodologies through appropriate channels and mechanisms. In this connection, I wish to recognize the strong contribution of BIOFIN in co-organizing our regional workshop on resource mobilization for Africa that was held in Uganda two weeks ago, as well as the three upcoming workshops that aim to provide similar capacity-building support for other regions.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with UNDP BIOFIN on resource mobilization, and wish you a pleasant and fruitful workshop.