



**STATEMENT BY
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ON THE OCCASION OF

**REGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON
ACCESS AND BENEFIT-SHARING FOR AFRICA**

9 - 13 JUNE 2014 - KAMPALA, UGANDA



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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Excellency,
Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me immense pleasure to send my warm welcome to you all at this regional capacity-building workshop on the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing for sub-Saharan Africa.

The workshop has brought together participants from Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, indigenous and local communities, United Nations agencies, inter-governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions. The high turnout and the diverse representation at this workshop is clear demonstration of Africa's commitment to the Nagoya Protocol and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Japan and the European Union for providing the financial support that has enabled us to organize this workshop. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the Government of Uganda for hosting the workshop in the beautiful city of Kampala. Uganda provides a fitting environment for our deliberations this week on the issue of access and benefit-sharing being one of the few countries around the world that developed access and benefit-sharing measures to implement Article 15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity way before the Nagoya Protocol was adopted. As you may be aware, the Government of Uganda adopted Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing Regulations under its National Environment Act in 2005 and subsequently adopted guidelines on access and benefit-sharing in 2007, which provide for simple institutional arrangements and administrative procedures for accessing biological and genetic resources and ensuring equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization. Uganda was also actively involved in the negotiations that resulted into the Nagoya Protocol and currently serves on the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol.

Distinguished Participants,

The African continent hosts a wealth of biological diversity which is sustaining people's livelihoods today and also providing development opportunities for tomorrow. The Nagoya Protocol contributes to these noble goals by providing a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of one third objective of the CBD: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. By helping to ensure benefit-sharing, the Protocol creates incentives to conserve and sustainably use genetic resources, and this enhances the contribution of biodiversity to economic development and human well-being.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are pleased to note that in light of the importance of biological diversity to the livelihoods of its people, Africa is leading the way towards the entry into of the Nagoya Protocol and its implementation. As you may be aware, out of the 38 instruments of ratification, accession and approval deposited with the UN Secretary so far, 15 are from Africa. These are: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, Seychelles and South Africa. We are also informed that at

least 10 other African countries, namely: Burundi, DR Congo, Gambia, Guinea, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Sudan and Uganda are in advanced stages and might ratify or accede to the Protocol soon. I wish to applaud Africa's continued commitment to ensuring the entry into force of the Protocol and its implementation.

Distinguished Participants,

With Africa's leadership, we are currently in the homestretch towards the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol. The Protocol will enter into force on the 90th day after the date of deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession by Parties to the CBD. With the ratification by Spain last week, 37 countries and the European Union have to date deposited their instruments of ratification/ accession. We are quite optimistic that the Protocol will receive the remaining 13 ratifications or accessions by 7 July 2014 to reach the required 50 instruments for the Protocol to enter into force in time to hold the first meeting of Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (COP-MOP) concurrently with the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, which will take place in October 2014 in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

In this regard, allow me to congratulate and thank all countries in this region that have ratified or acceded to the Protocol. I also wish to take this opportunity to urge all those countries that have not yet done so, to expedite their national processes towards ratifying or acceding to the Protocol so that they can participate as Parties in the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (COP-MOP 1) and play an important role in influencing the first decisions that will guide the implementation of this important international instrument. Please use the opportunity provided by this workshop to develop road maps and action plans towards the ratification and implementation of the Protocol.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The objective of this workshop is to promote further understanding of the Protocol's provisions and requirements and to strengthen your capacity to ratify/accede to the Protocol and prepare for its effective implementation with a view to contributing to the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 16. Aichi Target 16, adopted at the tenth Conference of the Parties to the CBD as a part of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets, states that: "By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefit Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation." Everyone in this room has a responsibility to contribute to the achievement of this target.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The year 2015 is just around the corner. While we are on track towards achieving the first part of Aichi Target 16, i.e. having the Protocol in force by 2015, we have further work to do to ensure that the Protocol will be "operational, consistent with national legislation" by 2015, which implies that at the minimum, Parties to the Protocol would have in place domestic legislative, administrative or policy measures and institutional arrangements by 2015 to ensure that the Protocol is operational.

As you work towards ratifying or acceding to the Protocol, I urge those of you that have not yet done so to concurrently embark on the national processes towards putting in place domestic legislative, administrative or policy measures as well as institutional structures to implement the Protocol and achieve the first Aichi Target. With our collective efforts and the commitment demonstrated by countries in the African region I am convinced that we are on track towards achieving the first Aichi Target in advance of the target date.

As most of your governments are currently in the process of updating or revising their NBSAPs and fine-tuning their national biodiversity targets, I also urge you to ensure that ABS issues and measures are appropriately integrated in the revised NBSAPs in order to effectively achieve the third objective of the Convention. As you are aware, the NBSAP is the principal policy instrument setting the national priorities for implementing the Convention and its Protocols at the national level and guiding national resource allocations and priorities for overseas development cooperation in the area of biodiversity. It is therefore important that measures adopted to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol are fully integrated into the NBSAPs and the national resource mobilization plans.

Distinguished Participants,

The workshop this week provides a great opportunity for you to share relevant information, learn from each other's experience and develop concrete steps to meet the challenges ahead of us. I am convinced that through the various presentations, group discussions and hands-on training, the knowledge you will gain valuable knowledge and insights and bolster your efforts towards the ratification and effective implementation of the Protocol.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and look forward to concrete outcomes and practical steps on the way forward.

Thank you for your kind attention.