



**STATEMENT BY
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**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

ON THE OCCASION OF

**FIFTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW
OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION**

**16 - 20 JUNE 2014
MONTREAL, CANADA**



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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Mr. President, distinguished delegates, friends and colleagues,

I welcome you to a sunny morning in our beautiful city of Montreal and hope the good weather continues to keep us all in a positive and good spirits during the week.

Delegates, almost four years have gone by since the historic decisions at Nagoya. The Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting, in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, will undertake an assessment of progress made in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

In Hyderabad, you had requested, through decision XI/2, paragraph 10, to strengthen implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity at the national, subregional and regional levels. You will note that several documents on the table today include potential elements that are targeted to enhance such implementation to enable us to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020.

These elements are on capacity-building, resource mobilization, technical and scientific cooperation, CBD's contribution to sustainable development etc. and could lead to decisions that collectively could be known as the "Pyeongchang Roadmap to 2020" in recognition of the host of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Therefore, a Pyeongchang Roadmap to 2020 would not have any stand-alone negotiations but would consist of decisions based on your collective recommendations that are targeted to enhance implementation of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020.

Similarly, the Roadmap could include relevant recommendations based on the draft of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook to be considered next week by the eighteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

I encourage you to keep this big picture in mind when preparing draft recommendations for the Conference of the Parties, so that a Pyeongchang Roadmap to 2020 emerges as a concise, coherent and strategic set of decisions to help us implement decision XI/2 paragraph 10 to enhance implementation.

In the next five days, you will have the opportunity to consider 14 agenda items to review the progress made towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the support provided to Parties, and make recommendations to the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Parties, based on a wealth of new available information. 78 Parties have through their fifth national reports provided information on progress in

implementation of their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and a further 30 parties have provided advance drafts of their fifth national reports. While 92% of Parties have prepared NBSAPs, and 50 have revised them at least once, only 26 have updated their NBSAPs following COP 10. The increasing number of Parties establishing national targets in their revised NBSAPs is an encouraging sign of commitment towards the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for this decade.

The secretariat has provided 13 working and 24 information documents to facilitate your discussion. Some of the working documents were reviewed in advance by the Bureau before being distributed. The documents provide valuable information, for example on the knowledge and experience attained by Parties in mobilizing resources to implement the NBSAPs building on an effective network of partners, international, regional and national. I am also very happy to see evidence that we now have a broad knowledge base, and a wide network of various implementing partners and stakeholders, including business, to support and enhance action at the national level. Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the Parties and our partners for their achievements in policy formulation at the national level and in some cases, local level, to implement the Strategic Plan.

However, the clock towards 2020 is ticking and I therefore urge Parties to build on this momentum by discussing and launching mechanisms to enhance implementation, in particular the *speed* of implementation. Also, we need to undertake further efforts to effectively monitor and report on progress towards national targets, including linking national targets to indicators supported by adequate data. The online reporting tool proposed by the secretariat provides a mechanism for enabling Parties to update information on their national targets, and progress being made to attain the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The agenda before you will guide you to discuss strategic recommendations that can be instrumental in shifting national action for implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets into high gear.

As we speak of implementation, the most important outcome of COP 11, in Hyderabad, was decision XI/4, in which the Conference of the Parties agreed on some very specific, though preliminary, targets for resource mobilization, ranging from a commitment to doubling biodiversity-related international financial resource flows to developing countries and reporting on domestic biodiversity expenditures to preparing national financial plans for biodiversity.

Delegates, you will agree with me that these financial targets, once finalized, will constitute a significant commitment by the world community towards a substantial

increase in mobilizing resources for biodiversity from all sources, including by ensuring their more effective use, for instance, by effectively addressing incentives that are harmful for biodiversity and by promoting positive incentive measures.

You will start your discussions on this agenda item today afternoon and you can draw upon a broad basis of information so far. Over 30 Parties have submitted financial information, with most of them using the preliminary reporting framework agreed at COP 11. Together, these national submissions indicate that, while some progress is being made in achieving the preliminary targets agreed in Hyderabad, much more needs to be done.

We also have the report of the High-level Panel on the Global Assessment of Resources for Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The expanded Panel, consisting of 15 regionally balanced experts, conducted bottom-up and regional assessments, and came to the firm conclusion that the monetary and non-monetary benefits of biodiversity conservation and their sustainable use far outweigh the costs.

Mr. President, I would like to thank the Chair of the Panel, Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, panel members and UNEP-WCMC for accomplishing a challenging task within a very limited time period. The Panel received generous funding from the Governments of the United Kingdom, Norway and Japan as well as in-kind support from the Governments of India and Brazil.

Delegates, you also have before you a summary of the second Informal Dialogue Seminar on Scaling up Finance for Biodiversity, held in Quito earlier this year. This is becoming a regular initiative launched by several Governments to enhance the understanding on the challenge of scaling up biodiversity finance. The Co-chairs, Ms. Maria Schultz of Sweden and Mr. Francis Ogwal of Uganda, will later provide a brief summary of the discussions. Further details on the Dialogue Seminar are available as an information document.

I am very happy with the profound and well-informed discussions under the Convention on how to finance biodiversity policies, discussions which reflect the broad range of options available to Parties. Now would be a good time to use this momentum to up-date the global strategy for resource mobilization beyond 2015 and provide effective guidance on how to achieve the targets on resource mobilization by 2020.

This update of the strategy will enable the secretariat to target its capacity-building support in partnership with the GEF, UNDP, UNEP, World Bank and increasingly the regional commissions and Banks to boost action at the national level. In this

context I would like to thank the European Commission and the Governments of Japan, Norway, Denmark and Sweden for providing the voluntary funding for the work on resource mobilization

Mr. President, let me just comment on a few other important agenda items on your table.

The agenda item on improving the efficiency of structures and processes under the Convention and its Protocols provides an opportunity for Parties not only to review existing practices and processes, but also to consider thoroughly the opportunities that new processes provide, such as the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol, which we are eagerly awaiting. Document 5/12 before you is a result of suggestions received from Parties and members of the COP Bureau. The document presents options and possible outcomes for your consideration, including some innovative suggestions on how to organize our work at COP 12 as we hopefully will have a second protocol entering into force in time to hold the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol concurrently with COP 12. I earnestly hope that this agenda item will receive your full attention and that we will achieve strong decisions at COP 12 that enhance our effectiveness. I urge those Parties that have not yet done so to ratify their commitment under the Protocol.

Also on the agenda is the issue of technical and scientific cooperation. The WGRI will have before it a proposal from the Secretariat, which aims to improve the effectiveness of such cooperation efforts. It will be a key area for strengthening work to achieve the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Targets. Likewise, the meeting will be considering the important role of partnerships, and proposals to strengthen the engagement of local and other subnational governments, the business community, and other stakeholders, to contribute to the achievement of the Strategic Plan.

While we meet here, the twelfth session of the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals is being held at United Nations Headquarters in New York. This is an important process in which biodiversity features explicitly in a larger political context. The promotion of biodiversity, not as a problem to be solved but, rather, as an opportunity to help decision-making processes achieve broader societal goals on the social and economic fronts, is crucial. As indicated in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”, biodiversity has a critical role to play in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential goods and services, which are the foundations for sustainable development, human well-being, livelihoods and poverty eradication.

Your recommendations this week can also provide input to these ongoing discussions at the United Nations in New York. Biodiversity being essential for achieving sustainable development, the secretariat has been actively involved with the UN process to support efforts by countries to reflect biodiversity in their outcomes.

It is also in this spirit that we have proposed one session tomorrow morning for having an informal dialogue on the complex issues of mainstreaming biodiversity in the sustainable development goals and mobilization of resources. Both these issues are critical for achieving the CBD objectives and cannot be attained without the partnership of a diverse range of stakeholders and partners in implementation. Tomorrow's session is intended to provide an opportunity for Parties to listen to these stakeholders and partners, share their own experiences and lessons learned, and benefit from dialogue. I would look forward to receiving your feedback on the value of this informal session.

Mr. President, lastly, let me thank the Governments of Finland, Norway and Spain for providing funds to support the participation of developing country Parties to this meeting. This support is very valuable to ensuring a broad participation in the Convention's decision making.

With that let me just wish you a successful meeting. I look forward to providing all necessary support to ensure smooth operations and negotiations in the next five days.

Thank you.