



**STATEMENT
OF**

**MR. BRAULIO FERREIRA DE SOUZA DIAS
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

on the occasion of

THE THIRD BIOTRADE CONGRESS

**12 October 2014
Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea**



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220 Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



Welcome session: Engaging businesses in the achievement of the strategic plan for biodiversity 2011-2020 and the future Sustainable Development Goals

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting me today. It is a great pleasure to address you at the Third Biotrade Congress.

I would like to express my appreciation to UNCTAD for organizing this important event, which comes at such an opportune time: the day of entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol. I am proud to share this moment with you.

The Nagoya Protocol is central to driving biodiversity for sustainable development. Its entry into force will create incentives for preserving genetic diversity, biodiversity in general, and associated traditional knowledge. It will provide the conditions for continuous research and development on genetic resources. But most importantly, the Protocol will give us the opportunity to develop an economy that is more sustainable and where the value of natural resources will be truly acknowledged.

We know that creating a more sustainable economy can only be achieved when all stakeholders are integrated into the sustainable development process. Being here today at this Congress and the Business Forum makes it clear to me that among these stakeholders, the role of businesses is increasingly recognized. And here, I mean specifically businesses involved in biotrade – because the biotrade business relies directly on our natural resources. Only if we are able to use these resources sustainably, we will be able to move towards an overall more sustainable economy.

Moreover, in moving towards a more sustainable economy, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity as well as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are very crucial. I believe, that businesses have a key role to play in this process and that it is therefore important that businesses become a central part in achieving the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and in implementing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

As you may recall, one of the main outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference was the agreement by member States to launch a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals. And in July this year, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals adopted a proposal for these Goals.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I was extremely pleased to see that many items of this proposal explicitly highlight biological diversity and ecosystems.

When looking at the proposed Sustainable Development Goals, I can clearly see a link to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. And this on the other hand means that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets are very relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Let me give some examples of these links:

Among the proposed Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 14 on oceans and coasts, and Goal 15 on terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity refer directly to sustainable use and

conservation of natural resources.

References to biodiversity, ecosystems and natural resources is further made in many other Goals, including Goal 2 on food security, Goal 6 on water and sanitation, and Goal 11 on cities and human settlements.

I would like to also highlight Goal 12 on sustainable consumption and production patterns. Goal 12 encourages companies to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycles. It further calls for the promotion of sustainable public procurement practices.

Now this is a very good example of the link between the Sustainable Development Agenda and the work program of the Convention on Biological Diversity - because sustainable consumption and production is also addressed in Aichi Biodiversity Target 4, which calls on businesses and stakeholders to implement plans for sustainable production and consumption.

I feel that this connection makes it very clear, that the work that we are doing to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity contributes greatly to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this regard, one of the major achievements is Target 2.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals. It states “by 2020 maintain genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals and their wild relatives, and ensure access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as internationally agreed”.

Thus, sustainable consumption and production, as well as sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits will play a major role in achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. And as such, the involvement of businesses – in particular biotrade businesses – in achieving these Goals is inevitable.

Ladies and Gentlemen, these results make it very clear that the essential role of business in achieving sustainable development is increasingly recognized.

The proposed SDGs are truly an important acknowledgement of the importance of biological diversity in general, and particularly of access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits from utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

The proposal of the Open Working Group is extremely positive from the perspective of the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The results demonstrate the growing recognition that biodiversity is essential for sustainable development and that businesses play a role in this process.

Much depends however on the ways in which we manage and use biodiversity: the survival of diverse ecosystems and the services that they provide, the survival of species and genes, and moreover, the long-term survival of economic sectors and of the people who count directly on the resources used.

The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity must therefore be integrated into economic policies. The mainstreaming of biodiversity, meaning the integration of biodiversity issues and considerations into economic sectors such as food, cosmetics or pharmaceuticals, will be a critical component of effective policy responses. Businesses therefore must play an important role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The post-2015 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals represent a unique opportunity to address many of the current challenges, including biodiversity degradation and loss, in a proactive and consistent way.

We have to ensure that biodiversity remains strongly represented in the final outcomes for the post-2015 agenda and that the final goals will be implemented effectively.

I therefore would like to encourage all of you to engage in this process and help to make the post-2015 agenda successful, as well as the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the Convention itself.

I am very pleased to be with you here today. The Biotrade Initiative of UNCTAD is an excellent program and I am satisfied to see that it is raising so much interest. We at the Secretariat are ready and willing to support your efforts and I am looking forward to a fruitful collaboration in the future.

I wish you a successful conference. Thank you.