



**CLOSING REMARKS BY**

**BRAULIO FERREIRA DE SOUZA DIAS**

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**at the**

**TWELFTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**AND THE  
FIRST MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES  
TO THE  
NAGOYA PROTOCOL**

**Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea  
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**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

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Excellency, Mr. Yoon Seang-kyu, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea, and COP 12 President  
Mr. Hem Pande, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change of India, and COP-11 President,  
Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

We have come to the end of a two-week journey, a journey that certainly had its difficult moments, but one that has led us all to a satisfactory outcome. Clearly, a major highlight was the coming into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization last weekend and the convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as meeting of the Parties to the Protocol concurrently with COP 12. This means that the Convention is finally taking flight with its three objectives now firmly addressed. Now, we need to see how the provisions of the Protocol are fully implemented and how this facilitates access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits with those stakeholders and indigenous peoples and local communities who conserve and sustainably use those resources.

As a consequence, we had sessions of COP, COP-MOP and Working Groups interspersed, and, despite some challenges, we succeeded in delivering on our task. My congratulations to the chairs, to my staff in the Secretariat and particularly to you all for having kept up with this challenging agenda and for the very good outcome.



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Parties to the Nagoya Protocol have agreed on 13 decisions and laid the foundation for the full implementation of the provisions under the Protocol. Among the key issues for the effective implementation of the Protocol, COP/MOP adopted the strategic framework for capacity-building and an awareness-raising strategy, as well the modalities for the operation of the ABS Clearing-house and a reporting format as well as guidelines for submitting an interim national report under the Nagoya Protocol. COP-MOP further agreed on a road map for the discussions on the need for and modalities of a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism. Most importantly, it approved procedures and mechanisms to promote compliance with the Nagoya Protocol. My special thanks to the co-chairs of the Contact Group on Compliance, Kaspar and David.

As you are aware, Aichi Biodiversity Target 16 provides that by 2015, the Nagoya Protocol is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation. With the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol, we have achieved the first part of Aichi Target 16. Now, with the collective efforts undertaken this week, you have established firm foundations for the operationalization of the Nagoya Protocol.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again urge all Parties that have not yet ratified the Nagoya Protocol to do so at their earliest convenience.

This COP has also seen the launch of the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and undertaken the mid-term review of progress with, as a consequence, a range of decisions aimed at enhancing implementation so as to enable us to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020. You have made decisions on capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, knowledge management through the clearing-house mechanism, monitoring and indicators, and, not least, resource mobilization. Together, these decisions form the core of the Pyeongchang Roadmap on enhanced implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. It is my strong belief that these decisions will enable us turn many of the indicators in GBO-4 from yellow to green.

Clearly, these efforts will require collaboration and partnerships and continuous efforts to further mainstream biodiversity in areas and sectors of society in which the term biodiversity and its values are not well understood. I was therefore pleased to see the unanimous desire to closely link the biodiversity agenda with that on the sustainable development goals, and have to thank our hosts, the Republic of Korea, for making this the overarching theme of this conference.

The discussions that took place as part of the Dialogue on Mainstreaming Biodiversity last Friday, and also many of the statements made at the High-level Segment, were very enlightening in that regard. I was equally impressed by the excellent turnout at the Biodiversity Summit for Cities and Sub-national Government and at the Business and Biodiversity Forum as well as the many side events of very high quality. Also, the active participation of representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities and the many examples of their collective actions for biodiversity are a testimony that the Convention is relevant not just to Governments but also at the local level. If biodiversity is well understood in local decision-making as well as in the private sector, we have a good chance to achieve some of the enabling targets under Strategic Goal A on mainstreaming, and this will facilitate the achievement of all other targets. Marine issues have also been very prominent on the agenda, with decisions on EBSAs and other matters as well as a high-level event under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative. I am very glad to see that there is a lot of momentum on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol are coming to a close. First of all, let me reiterate my heartfelt thanks to our hosts, the Republic of Korea, who have very ably facilitated our deliberations and supported our stay in beautiful Pyeongchang, Gangwon Province. Thank you to all the local staff for your friendly and kind assistance and your patience. I also want to thank the interpreters for helping us understand each other so that we

could find common ground, my own staff for servicing the meeting and everyone who helped make this a successful and memorable event. But most of all, I wish to thank all of you for having explained your concerns and helped find ways to express these in the decisions that were made. Naturally, this would not have been possible without the able guidance of our chairs, you, Mister President, guiding us through plenary and Mr. Hem Pande – for chairing this first meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, the chairs of the two working groups and all the chairs of contact groups and informal discussions for guiding: thank you very much for having led us to this outcome. And, lastly, I wish to express my deep appreciation to the Governments of Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom as well as the European Union for supporting participants from developing countries to attend this meeting.

Delegates, on another positive note, I am pleased to inform you that, through the Secretariat's Papersmart initiative introduced during our meetings in Pyeongchang, the total consumption has been approximately 625,000 pieces of paper, equivalent to only 35% of the previous consumption in COP-11. We have therefore achieved a savings of 65% on paper.

With these remarks, let me wish you all safe travels back home and courage and energy in implementing at home what we have decided together in this meeting. As the Abbot of the Woljeong temple, His Holiness Reverend Jeong Nyeom, declared: "Saving life in crisis is an urgent, universal task. The moment to commence the walk to this goal is now. We cannot afford the luxury of further delay".

Thank you very much for your attention.