



STATEMENT BY

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

at the opening of

THE SUSTAINABLE OCEAN INITIATIVE TRAINING OF TRAINERS WORKSHOP

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**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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Distinguished participants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Training of Trainers Workshop, being convened by the CBD Secretariat and hosted by the Government of Republic of Korea in the beautiful coastal city of Yeosu. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea for hosting and providing financial resources, through the EXPO 2012 Yeosu Korea Foundation, for the organization of the first Training of Trainers Workshop within the framework of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative.

My special thanks go to the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries for their collaboration and the Korea Maritime Institute for co-organizing this important workshop. I thank the representatives of the Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea as well as the Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation for joining us today to share their valuable experience and expertise together with many other distinguished participants. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the participants, who come from 15 different countries around the world, as well as resource speakers, who bring to this workshop their strong commitment to and common vision of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity.

In 2010, at its tenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, with its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It has become a widely agreed framework for action on biodiversity, supported by the other biodiversity-related conventions and the United Nations General Assembly. Through the Strategic Plan, Parties have committed to achieving a new vision of the world's biodiversity: "by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people."

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets lay out an ambitious agenda for reversing global trends in biodiversity loss and achieving a future for biodiversity in which ecosystems are able to provide critical services that underpin planetary well-being, and in which the global community can sustainably and equitably benefit from biodiversity without impacting the ability of future generations to do so. While recognizing the need for accelerated action to address biodiversity loss, Parties to the Convention also acknowledged the major challenges to achieving these targets, including a lack of institutional, technical, managerial and scientific capacity, as well as governance challenges and a limited information base in many areas.

These challenges outline the urgent need for expanded efforts to develop the capacity of Parties and facilitate partnerships among relevant stakeholders to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Sustainable Ocean Initiative, or "SOI", was created to respond to this urgent need. SOI was established in 2010 in the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, at the same time as the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. As such, SOI aligns its vision with that of the Strategic Plan. The SOI programme has been developed to address various Aichi Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity, with a particular focus on targets 6 (sustainable fisheries), 10 (addressing multiple stressors on coral reefs), and 11 (marine and coastal protected areas).

Since the initiation of SOI, the CBD Secretariat has been closely collaborating with the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea, the Korea Maritime Institute, and the Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation, together with other global and regional SOI partners, to support global efforts towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas through capacity development and by facilitating partnerships. For example, in conjunction with the "International Exposition Yeosu Korea 2012", the first Sustainable Ocean Initiative High-level Meeting was convened in Yeosu, on 5 June 2012, in collaboration with the Korea Maritime Institute and the Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation. Subsequently, our collaboration with the Ministry of Oceans and

Fisheries and the Korea Maritime Institute became instrumental for the successful organization of the SOI Global Partnership Meeting, held in Seoul on 3 and 4 October 2014, as well as the second SOI High-level Meeting, held in Pyeongchang on 16 October 2014 as a parallel session of the high-level segment of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. At this meeting, which was chaired by the Minister of Oceans and Fisheries, participants welcomed the Action Plan for SOI 2015-2020, which provides an effective framework of cooperation among different SOI partners in order to undertake various capacity-building and partnership activities at the global, regional and national levels.

Now, we gather here again in Yeosu at the first SOI Training of Trainers Workshop in order to help experts from 15 countries around the world to grow as planners and organizers of national training programmes that will accelerate progress in their respective countries towards achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas. At this workshop, all the participants will be actively engaged to share their expertise and experience, to provide each other with mentoring and coaching, to build a global network of practitioners who can continue to share their learning, and to explore concrete ways and means to develop national training programmes on conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity which can be implemented upon their return to their home countries.

As countries chart their own courses towards implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, they need to be supported by corresponding capacity-building opportunities to meet both their socioeconomic development needs and biodiversity conservation goals. As such, progress towards sustainable oceans can happen only by developing a global community of committed leaders with a shared vision of the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity. Today, you are here to demonstrate yourselves as potential leaders to further strengthen your countries' existing efforts and help your fellow colleagues through the provision of national capacity-building activities in order to achieve our sustainable ocean development goals.

The vision of SOI builds on multi-stakeholder partnerships among different sectors, and it provides a platform for sharing our experience and lessons learned with regard to policy development and implementation of marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. What you learn here, you must communicate to your colleagues and stakeholders in your respective countries through national training activities and other means.

Overall, our collective efforts around the world will contribute to the ongoing discussion on the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, which are to be formally adopted by the United Nations General Assembly later this month. Proposed Goal 14 aims to conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

As such, I see important contributions that can be made by the experts at this workshop representing different countries and organizations as well as different sectors of marine development and conservation. I trust that this mixture of expertise will enable a fruitful exchange of experiences and lessons learned and facilitate the development of potential support mechanisms to further enhance collaboration and information-sharing within and among countries.

With this, I wish you a productive discussion and a fruitful learning exchange in the coming days. Again, I encourage all of you to share the vision and mission of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative and contribute to a sustainable future for our oceans for generations to come.

Thank you for your kind attention.