



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

on the occasion of

**THE 6TH MEETING OF THE MEA INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE
MANAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE**

15 to 17 September 2015 - Montreux, Switzerland

**Distinguished MEA representatives, United Nations colleagues and other participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is a great pleasure for me to address you here at the opening of the 6th meeting of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Steering Committee in the beautiful city of Montreux.

For more than 6 years now, the MEA-IKM initiative has been developing information and knowledge sharing tools for MEA Parties and the environmental community. Its most visible achievement is the InforMEA website which is a handy one-stop window providing key information from each MEA, such as its articles, decisions and list of Parties, as well as national reports and plans, including national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). The beauty of InforMEA is that all this information is easily retrievable by MEA, country, or topic, depending on the user's preference.

Let me congratulate all those who have been contributing to the development of InforMEA for this remarkable achievement, and for the fact that it is also the outcome of a true collaborative effort.

I am a strong believer in and supporter of inter-institutional cooperation. As you know, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets have implications on biodiversity-related conventions beyond the CBD. Also, most MEAs face similar challenges in information and knowledge management, and joining efforts to address common issues can result in increased efficiencies, synergies and new opportunities.



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It is therefore not surprising that the Conference of the Parties has requested me, through [paragraph 14(b) of] CBD decision XI/2 B "*to collaborate with the other biodiversity-related conventions to ensure mutual compatibility and to avoid duplication of work*". This led to the signing in March 2014 of the Internal Cooperation Agreement on InforMEA between UNEP/DELIC and the CBD Secretariat. Under this agreement, we have committed to do four things:

1. First, to sustain the availability of CBD information in the InforMEA website through the maintenance of the InforMEA API implemented at the CBD Secretariat;
2. Second, to further implement this API to provide support for NBSAPs and national reports;
3. Third, to collaborate on the integration of CBD terms within the InforMEA thesaurus;
4. And fourth, to provide key documents for integration within the InforMEA e-learning facility.

As you may be aware of, the CBD Secretariat is a busy place given the high number of requests made by the Conference of the Parties. Despite this challenging context, let me reassure you that the full implementation of our agreement remains a priority, especially in light [of paragraph 18(c)] of decision XII/2 B, through which the Conference of the Parties has requested me to continue developing the "*Interoperability with InforMEA to allow relevant information on the Convention on Biological Diversity to be globally searchable on the InforMEA website*".

Last but not least, we know that the MEA-IKM initiative would not have been as successful as it is now without the strong involvement of UNEP/DELIC and the generous financial support of the European Union. Therefore, I would like to thank both of them for their major contributions.

With this, I wish you a successful steering committee meeting with fruitful discussions and outcomes.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.